

OUR
COUNTRY
1776-1976



OUR
TOWN
1838-1976

Senior Citizens Club of Dyer

Four Corners Of Dyer, Indiana, Looking North About 1910.

Town of Dyer

BICENTENNIAL BOOK

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TO A. N. HART AND WIFE MARTHA,
and other early settlers
mentioned herein, we
pay tribute in the words of
Robert Louis Stevenson's

REQUIEM

Under the wide and starry sky,
Dig my grave and let me lie,
Glad did I live and gladly die -
And I lay me down with a will.

This is the verse you grave for me -
Here I lie where I longed to be.
Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill. - -

Senior Citizens Club



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PREFACE

As we study books which record the historic Great Sauk Trail and the origin of the Town of Dyer, let us remember with reverence those who paved the way and left for us this part of this wonderful country.

May we cherish their memory, enjoy and use wisely our gifts from them, and add something of value for those who follow us as God's plan for this world unfolds.

As we celebrate the bi-centennial of our beloved country, may we be humble, honest, sincere and thankful for the many blessings God bestows on a most fortunate people.

A sincere "Thank You" to all who helped to gather pictures newsnotes, history books and other data about the early days of Dyer and its earliest families. Their significant contribution makes this record possible.

- Senior Citizens Club of Dyer

THE TOWN OF DYER

OLD SAUK TRAIL

The "Old Sauk Trail", named at the time Michigan, northern Indiana, and northern Illinois were being settled, was used mainly by the Sauk (or Sac) Indians. For many years the Sauk Indians received an annuity in goods from the English and later from the United States to insure peace. To collect these payments they were required to travel each year, men, women, children, ponies and dogs, from their home in western Illinois to Malden in Canada, and later to Detroit. The trail enters the Calumet Region at Dyer and follows for a distance the beautiful Glenwood beach of old lake Chicago, covered with white pine and cedar trees, through Schererville, Merrillville, Valparaiso and thence north-easterly to Westville, LaPorte, and New Carlisle. (The Lincoln Highway follows this route rather closely to a point east of Valparaiso.)

According to records of various writers, Dyer had its beginning back in 1838, when the original State Line House was built facing Sauk Trail (present site of Sam & Amato's Tavern and the Golden Dragon Restaurant at US 30 and Hart St.). About 1830 the first permanent white settlers came to northwest Indiana, which was occupied by Pottawatomie Indians under Chief Pokagon; they were a friendly tribe and migrated further west, but passed through this area on visits to their burial grounds near Lake Station (now Gary) on occasion until 1873, which is recorded to be the last visit of Chief Pokagon to this area. The original Half-Way House as it was later called, was destroyed by fire, and the present structure is believed to have been built by an early settler named Page.

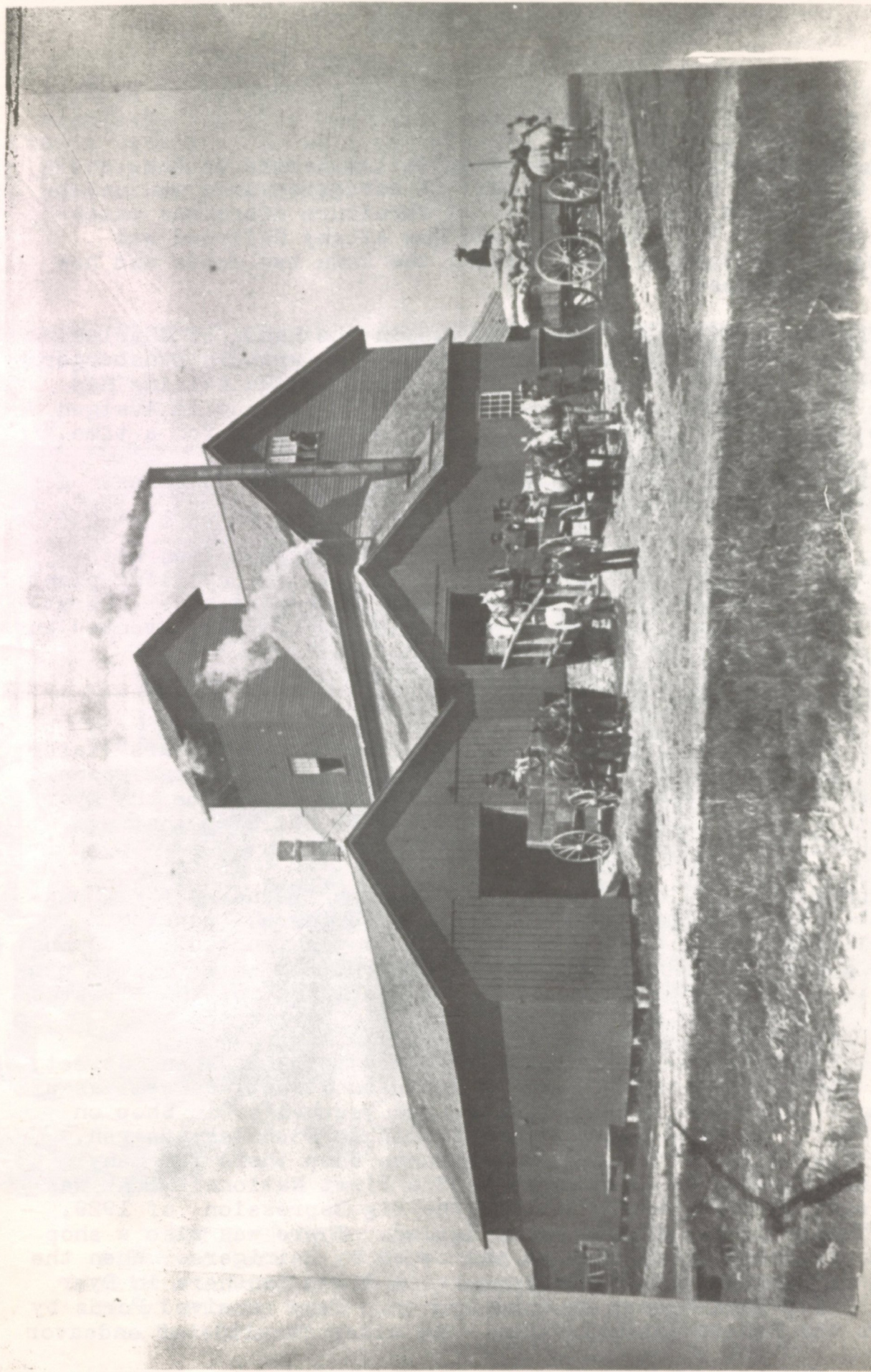
But an examination of the earliest census taken in Lake County in 1840 makes no mention of the Town of Dyer, and even the next census, taken in 1870, shows only a listing of those living in St. John Township, but many of the names are familiar to the Dyer area, even today, such as Schaller, Overhage, Davis, Stommel, Beiriger, Keilman, Gettler, Hoffman, Seidler, Jaeger, Dubueril, Kiesel, Mangold, Klein, Margraf and Austgen. Most identified themselves as farmers from Prussia, but a few listed occupations as carpenter, miller, saloon keeper, shoemaker, doctor (Seidler) and two masons.

In 1857 the Michigan Central Railroad established a station at Dyer, and built a grain elevator nearby. Farmers from as far as thirty miles away came here to dispose of their products. Long lines of wagons would wait to unload, and many were drawn by oxen. The waiting provided business for the hotel and store, as well as the saloon, naturally. Some years later the Monon Railroad ran a north-south line through Dyer, and the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway an east and west route. Stations for all of these were in land platted as Original Town of Dyer, and this access to transportation by rail made the town an important shipping center for the surrounding area. The Louisville & Nashville Railroad has absorbed the Monon into its system, and with the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern maintains a station here for carload lots of shipments only.

The plat of the Original Town of Dyer is dated June 1, 1855 in the Plat Book, with a note "No doubt an error in date of record", but does not give a correct date. The Plat shows Illinois, Indiana, Matteson, Calumet, Ross, Lake, East and West Streets, the Joliet and Northern Indiana Railroad and the State Line. A later plat recorded March 28, 1858 shows Hart and Joliet Streets, and a large number of lots.

John Streets built the first business house in town in 1856, and ran it for two years, after which it became a saloon. Mr. Wolcott built a second store, which was later owned by a Mr. Chase and later operated as a saloon. Apparently quenching one's thirst was a more stringent necessity than other commodities. A third store was built by F. L. Keilman and Leonard Keilman in 1858, and later shared by Keilman and Austgen, and a fourth store was operated by D. Lowenberg from 1866 to 1876, and early records show that in 1875 a general store was kept by Christopher Rich, who later sold to Mempel and Stommel.

The large grain elevator built by the Michigan Central Railroad was sold in June 1882 to Keilman and Lowenberg, and the business is still being operated by descendants of Leonard Keilman, who have made changes, and the original grain elevator structure was destroyed by fire two years ago.



Keilman & Lovenberg's Elevator & Ice Shed, July 1889.

The following are excerpts from Ball's Record of Lake and Porter Counties, published in 1882: "A hardware store was established in 1870 by Joseph Peschel. A furniture store was established in 1867. The Louisville and New Albany Railroad was finished to the town in 1882, giving the Town two roads and new impulse to business."

"The Post Office at this time was in the hands of Charles Sauter, who held it for two years, succeeding Francis Densberger who was in charge for three or four years. Julius Neising had run the post office for two years, but in 1876 Claudius Austgen had the office. Nick Scherer also had charge of it for a time."

"There are two doctors, A. Seidler and Dr. J. W. Johns. A Dr. Hoffman had been here formerly. "

"A door and blind factory built in 1870 burned down after being in business for two and one-half years. A distilling plant was built in 1863, but was closed by the government after operating for only a couple of years. J. H. Kasper of Dyer invented an incubator that put the setting hen out of business."

"The present population of Dyer is 400."

"Jacob Schaeffer ran a blacksmith shop for some years"(later owned by Henry Schulte until 1914, and torn down, but the wagon and buggy building in connection therewith later became the Dyer Eat Shop, and has now been absorbed into the building that now houses Carl's Barber Shop and Dugan's Insurance).

"The first polling place was at St. John because of its central location, and the whole township voted there. However, not many votes were cast because the roads were so bad. Citizens of Dyer petitioned the County Commissioners, and were finally permitted to establish a polling place in Dyer, the Township Trustee appointing the election Board."

Other businesses of record were a creamery on Fagen Street, a pickle and sauerkraut factory on Matteson Street, as well as a flour mill, Batterman's Harness Shop and Peschel's Tin Shop on Hart Street. In 1902 the latter was sold to Nicholas Austgen, who operated a hardware store and harness shop there for many years (now Doral's Paint'n Place). The First National Bank was established in 1903, and withstood the Big Depression of 1929, although many larger institutions failed. There was also a shop that manufactured furniture and was owned by Beirigers. When the "horseless carriage" made its appearance Fitch Brothers in Dyer had the first Ford Agency in Lake County. They received Fords by box cars and had to assemble them. An alternate line of endeavor

engaged in by Fitch Brothers was tiling and excavating. They had machinery for this business, and tiled much of the farm land in this vicinity, as well as trenching work for the Town when street drainage was undertaken, water mains laid, etc. They handled CASE cars as well as Fords.



FITCH BROTHERS GARAGE IN EARLY DAYS
Pictured left to Right - Charles Keilman, Albert Fitch, Unidentified Man, Maxine Fitch (on fender), Beryl Fitch, Tom Fitch (their father) at wheel of Car and Orin Fitch.

In the early 1900s there were seven saloons and two grocery stores in Dyer, and each saloon had to pay the Town, after its incorporation, a fee of \$150 for a town liquor license in addition to its state license. Every saloon had a watering trough for horses out front, and of course, the usual beverage inside for the driver. A nickel bought a schooner of beer, with free lunch, and in those days a schooner was described as a vessel a little too small to use for washing one's feet.

A. N. Hart

During his earlier life Aaron Norton Hart was a Philadelphia book publisher who, upon trips to Chicago envisioned the potential of this area, and in 1857 he bought several thousand acres of government land in northwestern Lake County, Indiana for \$1.25 an acre, and spent the rest of his life in its development. Some sources say he owned fifteen thousand acres - that is most of the land that now comprises Griffith, Dyer, Schererville and Highland. He married Martha Dyer, and they had four children, three boys named West, Win and Malcolm, and one daughter Flora. Mrs. Hart's maiden name was chosen for the new town they founded.



Around 1860 the Harts built a fifteen room colonial style home in Dyer. Later he built another house at Hartsdale on the Hart farm where he spent most of his time, but she and the family continued to live in the first house in Dyer, which stood at 135 Joliet Street until a few years ago, when it was torn down to make way for drive-in banking facilities.



Mr. Hart had to be a man of considerable imagination to see in the immense Cady Marsh, then covered with water, and the large pond called Lake George, which lay between what is now Schererville and Dyer, the possibilities others had not foreseen. Being a practical man, he set about draining the "despised swamp land", as it was then called, by digging an elaborate system of ditches through it. Sam B. Woods, in his "The First Hundred Years of Lake County, Indiana" relates: "Hart, with the help of hired men and two yoke of oxen, plowed a ditch from Plum Creek at Dyer to Ridge Road". Later, referring to the time when the ditch had to be deepened, he continues: "Eldred Munster, Jr. was given the job, which he did by filling a big

box with sand and dragging it out of the ditch with oxen. There were no scrapers or steam shovels in those days, and that was the beginning of the big ditch you now cross on Ridge Road west of Highland". With the completion of Hart's Ditch, twenty thousand acres of fertile land were made suitable for settlement and productivity, in contrast to its former boggy condition.

At one time Mr. Hart owned fourteen yoke of oxen, two teams of horses, and three teams of mules. The road and ditch digging business for which he used these animals grew to such proportions that he had as many as forty men on his payroll at one time.

Five different railroads crossed Hart's land, and he is said to have always arranged for permanent passes for himself and his family and the stopping of trains at his convenience before granting leave for a railroad to cross his property, and also insisted that each railroad maintain adequate drainage along its right-of-way. Bessie Hart of Crown Point recalled some time ago that her grandfather had accompanied his wife to Chicago for medical treatment by train in 1871, intending to stay in, but had to leave by horse and wagon because of the Great Chicago Fire.

Mr. Hart's extensive land holdings undoubtedly made the need for ditching a current fact of life, so that perhaps it was not too incredible that he should meet his death on January 12, 1883 while engrossed in that constant struggle to free the waters that inundated much of his land. A newspaper account of the incident is as follows: "Friday morning about 11:30 o'clock Mr. Hart was superintending the construction of a ditch cutting off a large bend in Plum Creek, which flows through his farm at Dyer. The ditch had already been cut through and a current was flowing. The bottom of the ditch was about two feet wide and the banks some ten or twelve feet high. A man was working just ahead of him, cutting off clods of frozen earth, while Mr. Hart was standing at the bottom of the ditch, pulling the loosened clods down into the ditch so that they might float off. Suddenly, without warning, the left bank caved, the sharp frozen edge of the falling bank striking him in the region of the heart. Death was instantaneous." Thus ended the life of a man who had great faith in the future of this area, and the skill and energy to advance its development.

St. Joseph's Church

Before a parish was established in Dyer, Catholic people living here attended church services at St. John when possible, and were sometimes visited by Rev. Wehrle of Turkey Creek, but in 1867 Rev. Jacob Schmitz moved to Dyer and became the first resident pastor. He lost no time in acquiring about four acres of land, upon which he erected the first frame church building, at a cost of between four and five thousand dollars.

A number of pastors served at Dyer in those early years. In 1870 Father Schmitz was succeeded by Rev. Theodore Borg, and he by Rev. H. Meissner, who served here from September, 1871 to December of that same year. Rev. Bernard Wiedau spent most of the year 1872 here, and was followed by Rev. Anthony King from December, 1872 to April, 1874; Rev. F. J. Freund from May, 1874 to August, 1875; Rev. Charles Steurer from August, 1875 to January, 1878, and Rev. Joseph Flach from March, 1878 to August, 1883; Rev. Charles Stetter from August, 1883 to July, 1888, when Father Flach returned and remained until his retirement in July of 1923.

In 1893 the original frame church needed repairs, and Father Flach improved it a great deal by replastering, frescousing and painting it. Stained glass windows were also installed, and in 1899 a basement chapel was added, as well as new altars and a new organ.

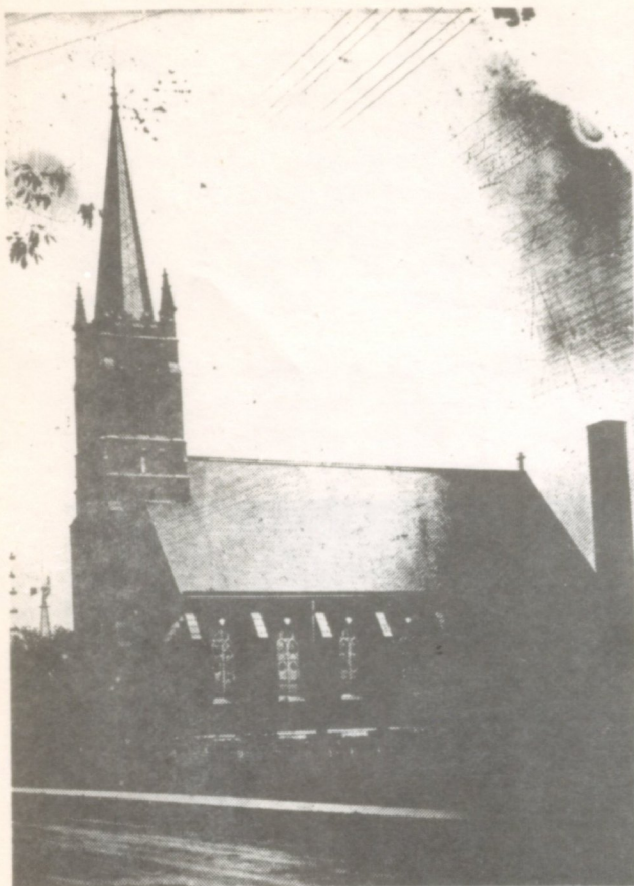


ORIGINAL
St. Joseph's Church



FATHER FLACH

Unfortunately shortly after Christmas of 1902, that original frame structure was destroyed by fire, and Father Flach and the parishioners set to work to rebuild, and the present edifice was dedicated November 26, 1903. It is 118 feet long by 43 feet in width, and boasts a tower over 100 feet high. It will seat 400 people and was built at a cost of \$18,000.



St. Joseph's Church

THEN

NOW

Upon Father Flach's retirement in 1923 to a house nearby, Rev. Geo Lauer came to Dyer, and remained until 1932. He was succeeded by Rev. Edmund A. Ley, who remained as pastor until June of 1954; Rev. Ambrose Switzer from June, 1954 to February 1967, when he met his death by asphyxiation in a camper while on a motor trip. His assistant, Rev. Joseph Zajdel, assumed charge until Msgr. Edward F. Litot was assigned a short time later, and he still retains the pastorate. Father Utas, Father Cowan and Father Topor assisted at times as circumstances demanded.

In 1938 a two-story four room brick parish school was erected at the corner of U. S. 30 and Nondorf Street to replace the frame structure which had stood a block further east near the cemetery. Four additional rooms were added in 1956, and a second floor of classrooms and new entrances at both ends of the building were an accomplishment in 1964. Records show that the original parochial school had been built in 1901, and staffed by two sisters of the Franciscan Order of the Sacred Heart, then of Joliet, Illinois, and that by 1905 they were instructing 87 pupils.



An inside view of beautiful St. Joseph's, with
 Father Sylvester Hoffman as Celebrant in
 1946.

The Dyer parish was one of the first missions for which the Franciscan Sisters assumed responsibility after coming to the United States - they began their work here in 1878, and the first convent was built in 1901 simultaneously with the building of the first school. The present convent was erected in 1924 by Father Lauer, and attached to the church later when additions and improvements were made.

The rectory now in use was built by Father Ley in 1950, to replace the original priest's house dating back to 1869. It was sold and removed from the premises to become a farmhouse on land east of town, and is still in use.

In the early 1930s a male choir, consisting of originally twelve men, was organized, and they undertook the funding and installation of a new organ for the church. Originally it was directed by William Jones and later by Tom Doolin. Organists who served were Anita Kahler, Revelda Reed and Mrs. Mike Dermody, and their fine renditions of the Mass and other approved church music were greatly appreciated by all. However, some years ago when church ritual was modified to encourage everyone's participation in the singing, the choir as such was naturally disbanded.

St. Joseph's Athletic Booster Club was initiated a number of years ago to assist students of the School to participate in the Diocesan Athletic Program.

In 1970 the lovely wood altars of the Church were found to have deteriorated beyond reclamation and were therefore removed along with the Communion Rail, and a new high altar was installed in conformance with the new liturgy. Having replaced the old slate roof and gutters on the Church in 1974, plans are now afoot to re-decorate its interior.

During 1974 a handicraft workshop was begun for ladies of the parish, in order to foster artistic endeavor and produce items for fund-raising events.

In the summer of 1975 the Ark, a recreational building, was renovated and now presents a more pleasing appearance for celebration of the Bi-Centennial Year. Also the addition to the convent built during Father Switzer's pastorate was reclaimed for church use because the parish now has less nuns in residence than formerly. It now houses the meeting room for the church council, a religious inquiry room and the Church office.

By September of 1975 St. Joseph's Church roster had been expanded to 817 family unit registrations, and the enrollment in the School for the 1975-1976 school year was 253 pupils, with a teaching staff of four sisters of St. Francis Order of the Sacred Heart, and five lay teachers.

St. Joseph's has been a dominant factor in the development of Dyer, and its imposing steeple reflects that dominance over the surrounding scene.

Dyer Union Church

In 1880 Mrs. F. N. Biggs and Mr. George Davis organized the Union Sunday School of Dyer, so the records say. At that time Dyer's inhabitants were, for the most part, German Catholics, and the new Sunday School offered an opportunity for Protestant worship and Christian education. The Sunday School first met in various homes, and later in a school house until the church was built in 1891.

Timothy Ball, in writing about The Sunday Schools of Lake County, mentions this being an interesting and useful school which, though not large, was the best school in the county in regular contributions to the Foreign Sunday School Association in New York and an Orphans' Home in Chicago.

On September 30, 1891 a meeting was held after Sunday School services for the purpose of establishing a church congregation. F. J. Templeton was elected clerk of the Dyer Union Protestant Church, and three trustees were elected: Henry Batterman, F. J. Templeton and William Severin. Charter members were the Heustons, Johnsons, Seidlers, Robinsons, Walters, Stommels, Millers, Jungs, Davises, Baileys, Petersons, Falches, Beadles and Stadfeldts, as well as Mrs. E. C. Brewer, Mrs. Margaret Flannigan, Mrs. Carrie Johns and Mrs. Laura Smith, which four had done much of the work of the Sunday School during the previous eleven years. These families were responsible for the work of the early church and the perpetuation of the Sunday School activities, and many of their descendants continue to live in Dyer and its vicinity.



On Sunday, October 11, 1891 the Dyer Union Protestant Church building was dedicated. It was the first Protestant Church in St. John Township, and the first Union Church in the county. The building was a neat, well-built structure, costing not quite one thousand dollars, and at the time of dedication was free of debt. Land for the building had been donated by Mrs. F. N. Biggs. Members of the Hart family and the Presbyterian congregation at Bloom and the reformed Evangelical congregation at Hanover and other friends made generous contributions toward payment for the building.

The Rev. E. A. Palmquist served the Church full time for more than three years. Attendance at the Sunday School during the 1920s was from fifty to sixty members, and all classes were held in the small church auditorium. It was the center for social activities for the Protestant Church youth group, and its excellent holiday and Children's Day programs attracted an audience from all faiths.

Mrs. Brewer, who served as Sunday School superintendant even before the church was built, continued in that capacity for a total of thirty-five years. Others who served for varying lengths of time were Miss Laura Jung, Arthur Brewer, Oliver Jung, Roscoe Protsman, Mrs. Alma Vandervort, Mrs. Kathleen Eberly, Glen Eberly, Connie Ludwig, Alan Roebuck and Mrs. Orville Gilliam.

During the year 1930 a congregation was again formed, and Rev. Harry Howard was called as a part time pastor. When he resigned in 1934, a membership of 50 names was recorded, and since that time church services have been held without interruption to the present time. Other ministers who have served were Rev. Howell, Mr. John Cheek, Mr. Cleveland Bradner, Mr. Leland Jamieson and Mr. Marvyn Jones. These men all served as they were attending the Chicago University as students. Dr. Don Riddle and other very capable men served the congregation in the pulpit on Sundays.

On August 3, 1940 the Fiftieth Anniversary of the dedication of the church was observed, and many former members joined the congregation for the occasion. Dr. Riddle was in charge, assisted by Rev. Howard and Mr. Protsman. Special music was furnished by Mildred Ruth and Vivian Sons, Maureen Fagen, Colleen and Charlotte Boyle and Betty Protsman.

In October 1943 a group of ladies met at the home of Alma Vandervort for the purpose of forming the Ladies Aid of the Dyer Union Church, and they were responsible for much planning and financing of church improvements.

In 1949 a basement was added to the church. It served not only for Sunday School and Church fellowships, but was rented to St. John Township School Corporation for use as a classroom for the two lower grades.

In 1950 further extensive remodeling of the church auditorium entry and Chancel was accomplished. By this time six trustees had been elected, and with the secretary and treasurer were the official ruling board. Rev. Jones, Rev. Mc Afee, Rev. Palmer, Rev. Meier and Rev. Hatch were others who filled the pulpit.

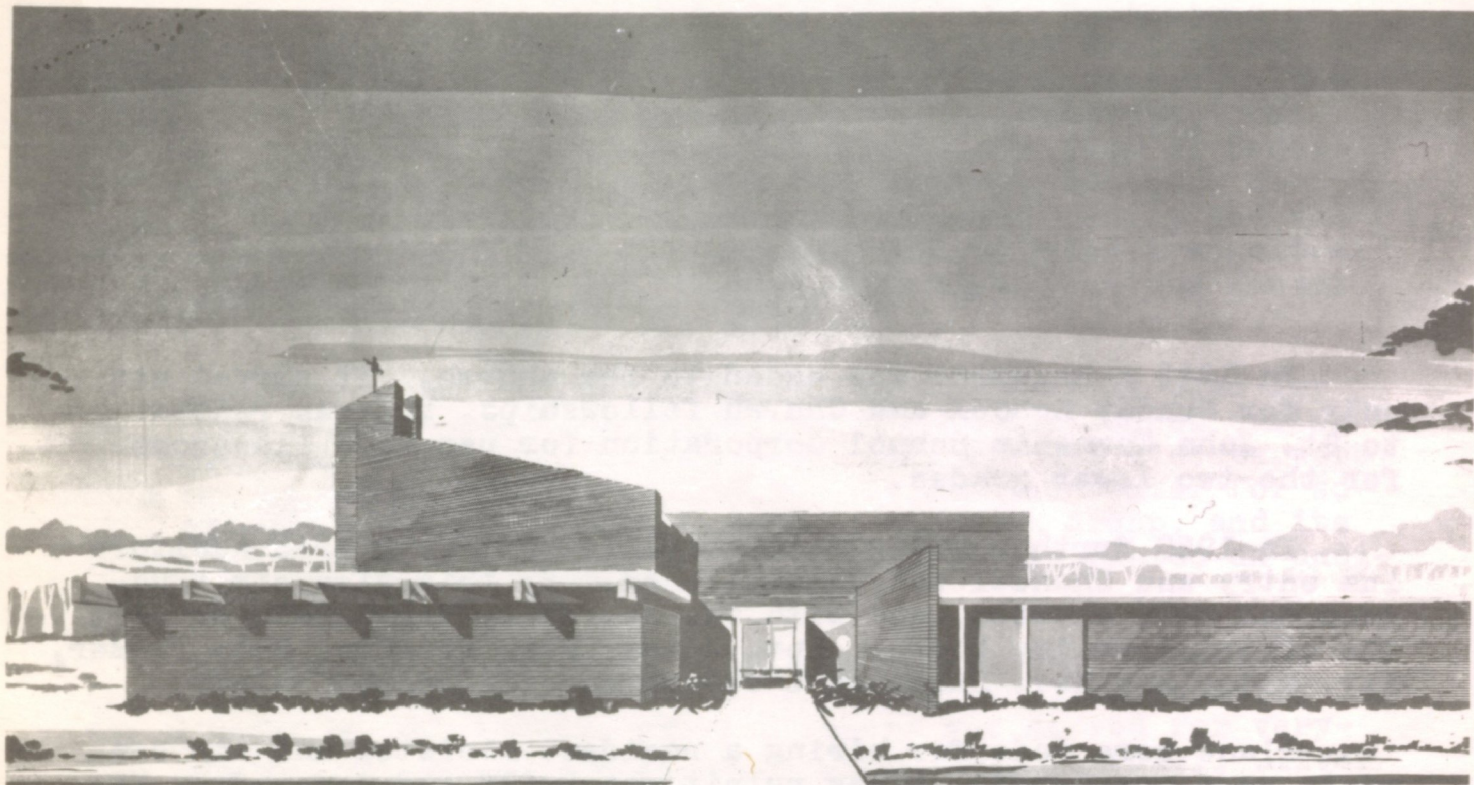
Plans were made for hiring a resident minister and improvements were continued. A new pulpit was built and donated by Mr. Vis and Mr. Ernest Jung. Pews and hymn book racks were purchased and installed and a new front entrance was built onto the church. Stained glass windows were added, as well as candles, a cross for the altar and an electric organ. Evergreens were also planted in the decorative planters alongside the front steps.

In November, 1956, Rev. Thompson was called to the ministry of the Church, and a parsonage was purchased on Harrison Street. In August of 1959, Rev. David Wright replaced Rev. Thompson for one year, and in 1960 Rev. John Buchannan came to fill the pulpit. In March 1962 the congregation voted to join the United Presbyterian Denomination.

First United Presbyterian Church

Four acres were purchased south on Hart Street, and on this beautiful site a very lovely church was built. The stained glass windows from the original Dyer Union Church were utilized and may be seen as you enter the sanctuary of the new church, reminding one of its early history.

The fellowship hall is used for many community activities, such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, youth groups and adult group activities, fund raising events, etc. It has a well-equipped kitchen so that dinners and luncheons are also held there.



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. James Uttley is serving as a hard-working, out-going, concerned pastor, and the membership is constantly increasing in this expanding community.

Dyer United Methodist Church

On June 13, 1948 a small group of Christian people held the first worship service and Sunday School of the Dyer Methodist Church in the Dyer Town Hall. Sunday school classes were held in the meeting room and in corners of the fire station. Sixty-one persons signed the original charter. In the years that followed, the adventuresome faith of the small group has grown into a vital Protestant witness in our community.

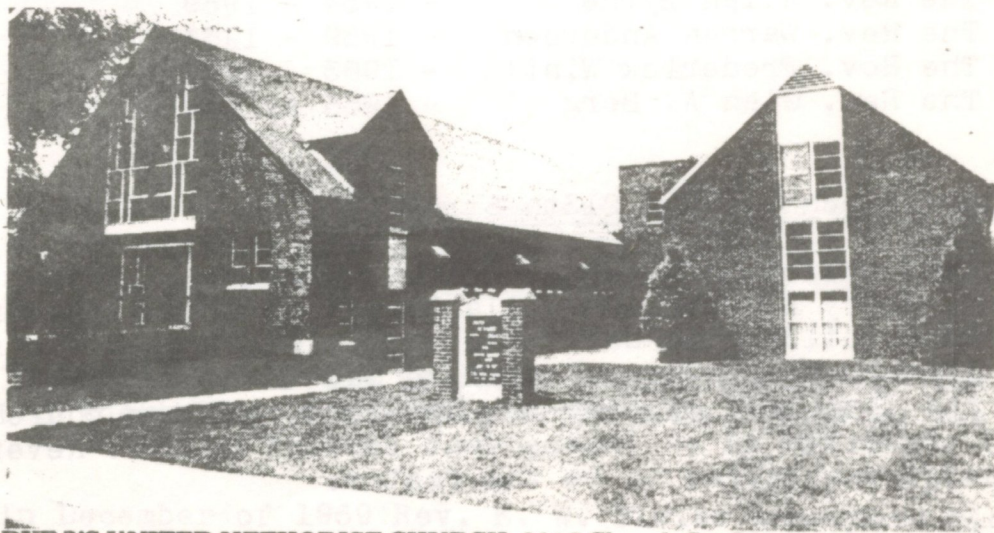
Rapid growth and great faith led to the first Building Fund Drive in June, 1950, headed by Mr. Norman Scaman. The W.S.C.S. held its first bake sale in the Town Hall, and made \$80.00, which was the first deposit made for the building fund.

Based on the enthusiasm of the small band of faithful Christians of the church, the Board of Home Missions awarded the Church a substantial loan and grant for their dream of constructing a church. The Ground Breaking Service was held on the church lot on Church Street August 20, 1950. With sacrifice and great labor in the Lord, the Church was completed in 1951. Membership at that time was 110 persons.

In 1952 the public school was extremely over-crowded. To help ease the problem, there were classes held in the Town Hall and in the Church basement.

In the early fall of 1954 the pews were installed. About the middle of 1955 a second step was taken in the growth of the Church, when a modern home was built for the pastor and his family.

As continued growth in the community seemed inevitable, it was realized that facilities of the Church were inadequate for the increasing attendance at worship and church school. So in March, 1957, a Building Fund Campaign was conducted to assure the Church's advancement and expansion. At this time membership had grown to 355 persons.



DYER'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 2016 Church St., has a congregation of 600. The Methodists worshipped for the first time in the Dyer Town Hall on June 13, 1948. The sanctuary was completed in 1951 and the present structure (with addition) was completed in 1959. Rev. Glen A. Berg is the pastor.

On May 24, 1959, after much prayer and planning, ground was broken for the new addition, and on October 4, 1959, laying of the cornerstone took place.

October 23, 1960, twelve years after the first worship service, the members of the Dyer Methodist Church joyously consecrated the new addition. This addition consisted of the new sanctuary, which seats 350, a "crying room" above the Narthex to accommodate parents of small children, and ten new classrooms, as well as offices for the minister.

Again in 1962 the public school held two classes in the church building.

December 1, 1963 the Church celebrated a Founders' Day Service, and in 1968 the Dyer Methodist Church's name was changed to The Dyer United Methodist Church when it merged with the EUBs.

During the summer of 1969 stained glass windows were installed in the Sanctuary. Designed by our young people, the windows on the north side tell the story of creation, and those on the south the life of Jesus. That summer also, a garage was built for the parsonage.

At the time of this writing our Church has a membership of over 600. The Dyer United Methodist Church not only has all of the church organization meetings, but also has an open "Welcome" door to many civic and community youth groups.

Pastors Who Have Served The Dyer United Methodist Church

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| The Rev. William V. Ischie | - 1948 - 1949 |
| The Rev. Craig Wilder | - 1949 - 1951 |
| The Rev. Sheldon Duecker | - 1951 - 1954 |
| The Rev. Allan Byrne | - 1954 - 1959 |
| The Rev. Warren Andersen | - 1959 - 1963 |
| The Rev. Frederick Wintle | - 1963 - 1966 |
| The Rev. Glen A. Berg | - 1966 - Now |

Dyer Baptist Church - 735 - 213th Street

The first church service was held in February, 1957 at the home of Mrs. Betty Elder on Magnolia Street in Dyer. In March of that year a building on Sheffield Avenue was rented for services until other arrangements could be made. In September of that year the Town Hall of Dyer was obtained, and the church was officially organized as an Independent Baptist Church. Reverend Freeman Goodge was called to be the Pastor.

Soon thereafter the property at 735 - 213th Street was purchased and construction of the first unit was soon under way. In the spring of 1959 the second unit and a parsonage were erected at the same location.

First Baptist Mission - 2723 Hart St.



In February of 1961 Rev. Goodge announced his plans to return to the mission field. A call was extended to Rev. E. W. Bixler to become the new pastor. He accepted and became pastor on July 1, 1961.

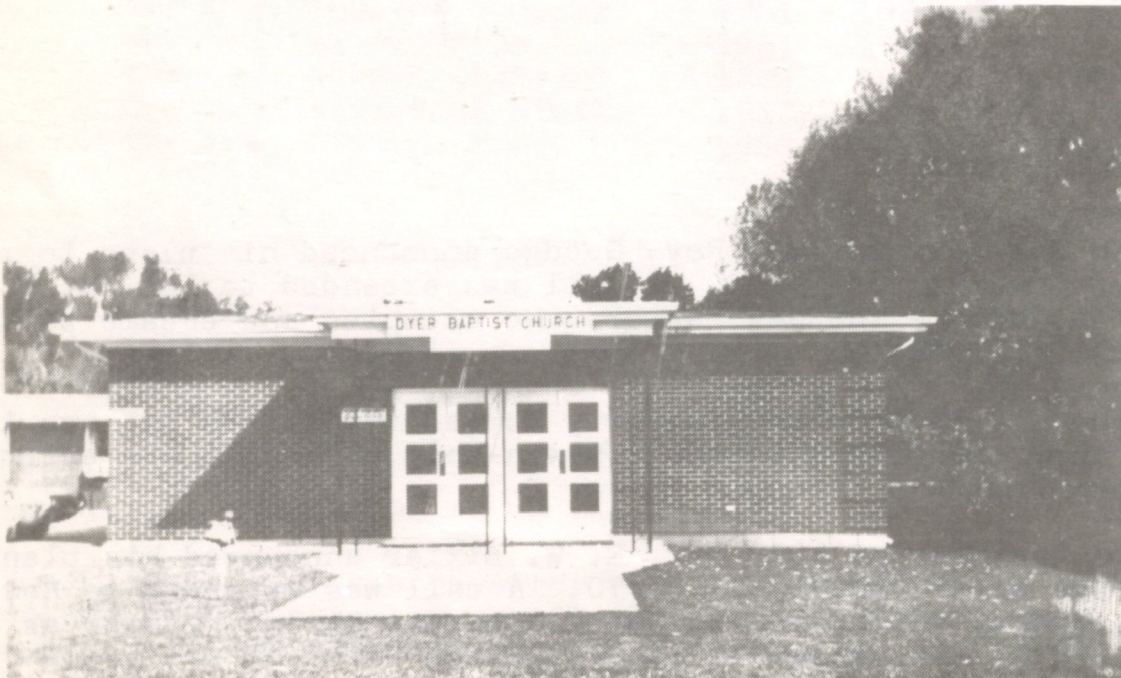
In July of 1963 the property across the street was acquired and soon thereafter a suitable seven-room parsonage was erected on it.

In December of 1969 Rev. E. W. Bixler announced his plans to resign as of January 11, 1970. A call was extended to Rev. Robert Myers, which he accepted and became the new pastor as of April, 1970. An extension of the church building was accomplished in 1970, and this enlarged the front wing of the building.

In April of 1972 Rev. Myers announced his plans to resign on April 23rd, so a call was extended to Rev. Bill Barber to become the new pastor. He accepted the call, assumed his duties in June of 1972, and is still serving in that capacity.

The Church has the largest Sunday School in the City of Dyer, averaging 470 the first six months of 1975. Under the leadership of Rev. Barber, the Church has added a weekly half-hour television program on Channel 50. Its daily radio ministry reaches a part of the four states of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. The Church maintains tape recordings of all services and reproduces them. Eight buses cover the Calumet region in bringing folks to the services. A full-time staff of five people serves the congregation. Staff associates include an Assistant Pastor of Youth and Music, Bus Director, Director of Development and Stewardship, and a full-time Secretary. The Heartbeat is the bi-weekly publication of the church which is distributed to some 1800 homes. The capital assets of the church total one-half million dollars. Monthly support is sent to 48 mission projects, many of whom are foreign missionaries.

The Church is independent, having no official membership in any church group. It is self-governing and self-sustaining. The theology is conservative and accepts the verbal inspiration of the Scripture. The Church believes that the Great Commission to evangelize the world is its mission. It has plans to relocate in the immediate area and build new facilities in 1976.



Dyer First Baptist Mission - 2728 Hart St.,

The Dyer Baptist Mission grew out of a deep-seated belief in co-operation missions. When, in July of 1960, by a small majority of its members, a local Baptist Church, voted to leave the fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention, a group with strong Southern Baptist convictions withdrew from the church.

On Sunday, August 8, 1960, twenty-three of these people joined the Liverpool Baptist Church in Gary, and after conducting a religious census in the Dyer area, and feeling the need for a Southern Baptist work here, began immediately to look for a suitable place in which to worship. Three of our men, Tom Perryman, Bill Goodson and Lucius Nicoson, with Rev. John T. Young and Rev. Leonard Whitlock, our area missionary at the time, obtained the Dyer Town Hall. On the first Sunday of October in 1960, we had our first meeting in the Town Hall.

On January 29 of 1961 the Liverpool Church extended a call to the Rev. R. C. Thompson to serve as Mission Pastor. He soon moved on the field, and has since served in a full time capacity.

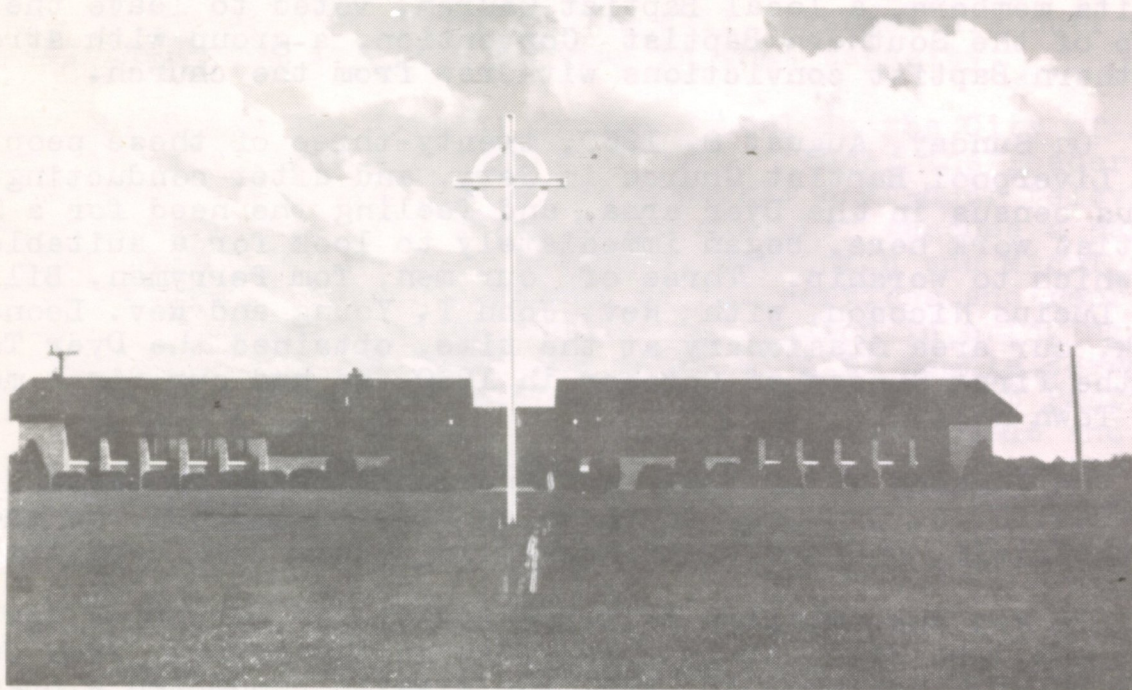
In May the Mission acquired additional education space apart from the Town Hall, thereafter known as the Annex. From June of 1961 through November of 1962, the Mission conducted a branch Sunday School at the Shady Heights Nursing Home. We have held two revivals and conducted the Growth in Christian Stewardship program in March of 1963. Study course awards earned by members of the mission numbers in the hundreds.

About this time we sought a suitable place to build, and after great difficulty located two acres at 2700 Hart Street. We secured a loan and funds from the Home Mission Board to purchase the ground.

In June 1962 a bond issue for \$32,000 was negotiated through the Broadway Bond Company for the erection of the first two units of the Church, in accordance with the master plan. Construction was begun in September 1962, and we moved into this educational wing on March 24, 1963.

A budget of \$222.00 per week has been adopted, and this Mission has given approximately \$2400 to missions through the co-operative program and special mission offerings.

From its inception, the Mission received much co-operative help from the convention. The Sunday School Board furnished us literature free of charge for the first quarter of our Sunday School year, and gave us twenty-five Baptist Hymnals. The Home Mission Board furnished us pastoral aid for the first year to the amount of \$1,040. The Baptist Convention in Indiana provided rental aid for our Educational Annex, and the Lake Michigan Baptist Association donated \$250.00 toward our building site.



Since its inception the membership's convictions in the co-operative efforts and the soundness of the Baptist program has been strengthened time and again, and they deem it a privilege to be associated with the more than 32,000 Southern Baptist churches and pray God's continued blessings on all who work for Christ.

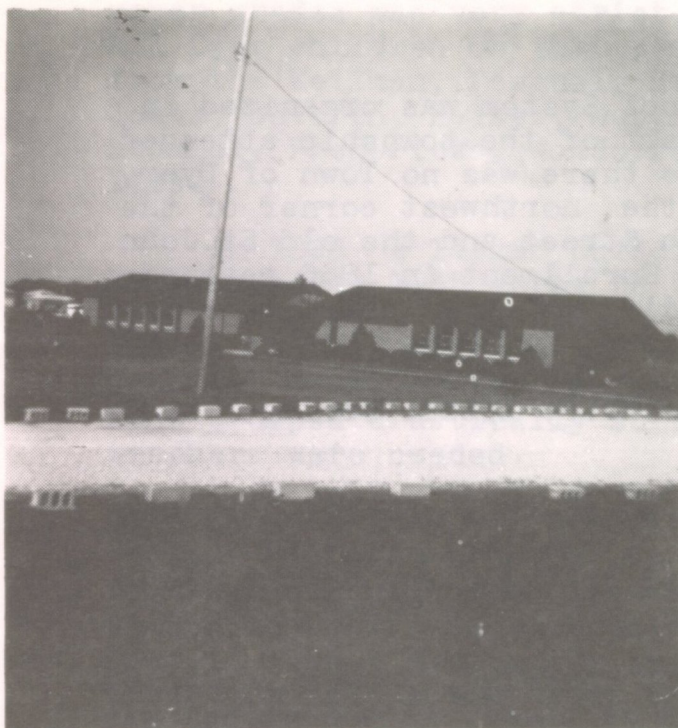
By the year 1972 the Church had grown to approximately 160 resident members, with an annual budget of \$27,000, and had a full time pastor. The emphasis is on Christian growth, and reaching others for Christ.

At the time of this writing, membership has grown to over 200 members, with a budget of \$33,978 per year.

Grace Lutheran Church

In 1957 the Calumet Lutheran Mission Association canvassed the Dyer area, and on August 30, 1960 a general meeting of interested people met at the Dyer Town Hall. On October 16, 1960 the first service was held in Kahler School, with 152 people in attendance, and the Rev. R. Wilkening presiding.

On October 23, 1960 the first Sunday School convened with 57 present, and on January 15, 1961 the first Communion service took place. On January 21, 1961 the congregation was received into the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.



Candidate E. A. Brese was installed as the first resident pastor on July 23, 1961, and on September 19, 1961 the congregation was incorporated. In October of 1961 fifteen acres of land was purchased for a church site. It faces Hart Road, or Sheffield Avenue, and lies outside the Town's south corporation boundary line. Erection of the church and parsonage followed at 8303 Sheffield Avenue under the direction of Rev. Brese, and he continued to serve here until May 25, 1968. From July 13, 1969 until December of 1971 the pastor in charge was Rev. Suckow, and on February 27, 1972 the Rev. Milton Beer assumed the pastorate, and still serves in that capacity. Membership has increased to approximately 300.

First Christian Church

The First Christian Church of Dyer was established in June of 1969, with its first services being held September 14, 1969, through the efforts of the Chicago District Evangelistic Association and the Evangelist At Large, Carl Moorhous. He served the congregation on a part-time basis, and was assisted by others who preached on Sundays. In May of 1971, David Buche was called as the first full-time evangelist.

Since its beginning, the congregation has met in Protsman School, but in May, 1974 three and a half acres of land at 704 Joliet Street (U. S. 30) was purchased, and new facilities are under construction at the present time. It is hoped same will be ready for occupancy by November of 1975.



The Christian Church is a non-denominational group, which claims not to be the only Christians, but rather "Christians only".

Dyer Schools

When the St. John Township School System was organized in 1853, all pupils in the Northwest part of the township attended District No. 2 school. At that time there was no Town of Dyer, but District No. 2 school stood at the northwest corner of the intersection of Novak Road, or 77th Street and the old St. John Road, now called Patterson Street. Enrollment in 1866 reached 77 at this school, and families sending children there were the Schillings, Keilmans, Leinens, Moellers, Hoffmans, Haags, and Willys. Long time teachers there were Theodore Kammer, Andrew Kammer, Madeline Liable, Theodore Brinker, Lizzie Seberger and Cecelia Ludwig.

We are told the pupils were happy in this school; they had a good well and good water, and one former pupil recalls with pride that theirs was the only enamel drinking cup in the township schools - all the rest were tin.

But with the coming of parochial schools in the three towns of the township, attendance at No. 2 declined, so the school was closed in 1907, Estelle Keilman being the last teacher. A few years later the sturdy old building was sold and moved from its original site, and it still serves as a shop or garage building on the Ilus Wood farm in Dyer.

In 1858 the Town of Dyer was platted. Consequently there was an increase in population here, so District School No. 5 was established. Tradition tells us that the earliest school in Dyer was a log building; however a better building was soon provided. Records show that on August 17, 1862 John Sommer was paid \$150 for erecting a school building, and a short time later he was paid \$15 for making benches. Pioneers of Dyer tell us that the school was on Hart Street about a block north of the present US Route 30.

By 1875 there were so many children in the district that a larger school was built. This one-story, two-room building stood on the east side of the present school property in Dyer. Trustee Bernhardt Schulte paid \$205 for the school lot, and a total of about \$460 for such items as lumber, teaming, carpenter work, painting, etc. William Esswein, a teacher, wrote the following in his Report to Trustee in 1883: "The school building has a beautiful location, surrounded by splendid trees". Mrs. Caroline Seehausen, only recently deceased, attended that school. She stated that it was a good building in an attractive location; that there was a good well, and that the building was kept in good repair. Each room was heated by a large stove which burned wood or coal. Two large privies stood at the rear of the lot.

From 1876 until 1898, two teachers taught in the Dyer School. The lower grades were taught by Catholic nuns and the upper grades by men. Both German and English were spoken and written. Old timers who attended say that discipline in the upper grades was very strict, and that punishments were severe. All Dyer children on that period went to this school, and were from the Keilman, Peschel, Helmer, Schaller, Brewer, Batterman, Johns, Severin, Kaiser, Margraf, Overhage, Baker, Seidler, Stommel, Fredericks, Nondorf, Scheidt, Davis and Gettler families.

In 1898 a larger building was needed, so Trustee Henry L. Keilman added 1.35 acres to the lot, and built a two-story brick structure with four rooms, attic and full basement. For the next three years three teachers taught there, but after the Catholic School began in Dyer about 1901, public school enrollment dropped drastically so that, for several years, only two teachers were needed.

In 1898 the Dyer School really lost the flavor of the so-called "district school." In the early 1900s the outlying one-room schools began to close and their pupils were transported by bus to Dyer. The township high school was established in Dyer in 1908. Eventually the elementary school with subsequent additions became the Agnes Kahler School.

Teachers who served at District School No. 2 from 1853 to 1907 were Mary Portz, Joe Vornhulz, Amanda J. Feltz, Sister Alfred, Mary Chase, Andreas Jung, Alois Streng, Paul Lehman, Theodore Brinker, Andrew Kammer, Adeline Laible, Theodore Wagoner, Annie Groman, Madeline Laible, Anna Koupel, Charles Harter, Henry Phillips, Henry Reichers, Regina Alt, Lizzie Seberger, Theodore Kammer, Cecelia Ludwig, and Estelle Keilman. It seems proper that we pause and reflect at this point in time on the fact that most of these teachers had all eight grades, and that in addition to teaching the three Rs, they were responsible for the behavior and safety of their pupils. The teacher was also the janitor and custodian, so they had to arrive at school by 8:00 a.m., earlier on Mondays and on extremely cold days, to open the building, make the fire, and welcome the pupils. At odd intervals before school began at 9:00 a.m., he might look over lessons, talk to parents, or listen to pupils telling of things that happened at home, such as the purchase of a new horse, what a good crop they had, or perhaps the birth of a new baby. Noon intermission began at 12 Noon and lasted an hour, except during bad weather when it was cut short so that children could get started home earlier in the evening. Ordinarily class resumed at 1:00 and continued until 4:00 p.m.

Although most of the textbooks were written in English, much of the conversation was in German, and many children entering first grade in the earliest schools needed a special period for learning the English language.

When St. John Township High School began in the fall of 1908, there were ten students in the first freshman class. Henry Batterman was the Trustee, and George Hassel was the first teacher. Two students, Alma Keilman Gettler and Michael Klassen were the first graduating class in 1912. For a number of years the number of students in the high school increased very slowly.

The first high school occupied one of the four rooms of the building erected in 1898 by Trustee Henry Keilman. In 1916 three more rooms were added by Trustee Joseph Gerlach. Another addition of three classrooms, a large study hall and a gymnasium was provided by Trustee Michael Seberger in 1928.

An elementary school building which, at times has housed part of the high school, was built by Trustee Paul Gettler in 1938, and finished in 1939 during the administration of Michael Kolling as Trustee. Finally in 1956, a splendid industrial arts building, housing a cafeteria, home economics room, a shop, science laboratories and class rooms, was built by Trustee Don Moriarity.

At first the curriculum of the School was predominantly academic. Florence Watson Hunt organized sewing classes about 1920, and several years later Ruth Hoffman began courses in cooking and established a cafeteria. A commercial course was added in 1923, and a glee club has been an activity of the School almost throughout its history. An orchestra was organized by Vada McPherson and Roscoe Protsman in 1926, and has been replaced by a band since 1938. Manual training was offered intermittently, but was not established as an integral part of the curriculum until 1956. Dramatics has long held an important place in the School.

In the field of journalism, The Dyer Flyer, a monthly paper, appeared in 1927. The first annual, The Clarion, was published by the Class of 1932. The Flyer has been replaced by The Comet, and The Clarion by The Echo, both of which have received awards for excellency.

Athletics have always been a stimulating part of the School's activities, which has won its share of championships. However, through the years the baseball teams have perhaps won the greatest share of the honors. Mr. Ted Fox organized and coached the first baseball and track teams in the spring of 1925. In the fall of 1928 Coach E. S. Jack introduced basketball. Teams were organized for both boys and girls, and football was started in 1941 by Coach Carl Carnahan, but soon discontinued. This sport was revived by Coach Ken Meyer in 1948, and in his program of school and grounds improvement, Trustee Roy C. Hilbrich constructed the present football field. The Dyer Lions Club furnished the flood lights, and the field was dedicated in 1949.

Along with good buildings and grounds, good books, supplies, students and faculty all are important in an educational system. Each teacher and each administrator, through conscientious service, has left his mark on the progress of the school. Some of the principals have been Mr. Mullins, D. A. Griner, C. G. Hunt, Alvin Ahrens, L. P. Hopkins and George Bibich. In 1956 Fred Jones became Assistant Principal, and Vivian Voreacos became Dean of Girls.

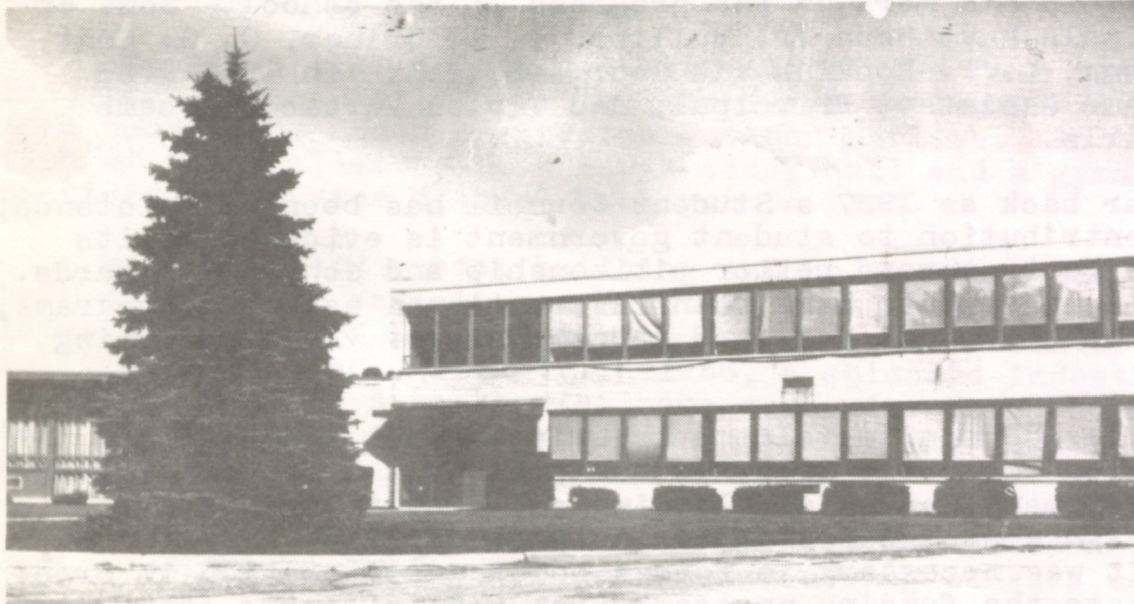
As far back as 1937 a Student Council has been in existence, and its contribution to student government is evidence of its constant efforts toward better citizenship and school standards. Among its achievements have been instructional assembly programs, installation of a coke bar, and sponsorship of the home coming programs.

With new housing developments bringing new families and more children into the area, township schools had to be expanded. Hence, after many months of planning and contriving, construction of a new high school was started in April of 1957. Preliminary to this, it was necessary to form a holding corporation in order to facilitate the funding necessary for this gigantic step, and on June 15, 1956 the St. John Township School Building Corporation became a reality. Contracts were awarded on February 19, 1957 and ground breaking ceremonies were held in May of that year. Classes moved into the new building for the fall semester 1958, and had facilities for fourteen academic class rooms, a typing room, an art room, biology laboratory, a physical science lab, a library, a nurse's room, teachers' lounge and administrative offices, as well as a gym to shelter the physical education and athletic programs, with folding bleachers to seat 1600 fans. The gym floor had been designed to serve for athletic activities, dancing and roller skating.

The name of the school was changed from St. John Township to Dyer Central High School, and Open House and Dedication ceremonies took place on Wednesday, October 15, 1958. In 1959 the name of the grade school was changed from St. John Township to Kahler School, in honor of Miss Agnes Kahler, who had taught here from 1917 to 1961.

In 1962 Protsman Grade School was built in the north section of Dyer. It is an attractive low profile structure, and was named in honor of Roscoe Protsman, who served this community as a great teacher and a good citizen for many years. Adjacent to the school are ample playgrounds and ball diamonds for recreational purpose. Robert Hovermale is principal, and children in kindergarten through fifth grade are accommodated there.

The original structure of Kahler Junior High School was completed in 1939. The Dyer Central High School addition was made in 1956, and expanded again in 1958. Growth was so rapid in the mid-sixties that high school students were transferred to Lake Central, and portables were added in 1970 for junior high students. Kahler's enrollment in 1972 was 1,135. Lee Paris is the principal and the school is now called Kahler Middle School, teaching 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Kahler Annex teaches 5th grade students, with Fred Jones as principal. Kolling School near St. John teaches Kindergarten through 5th grade, with Kendall McCummock as Principal.



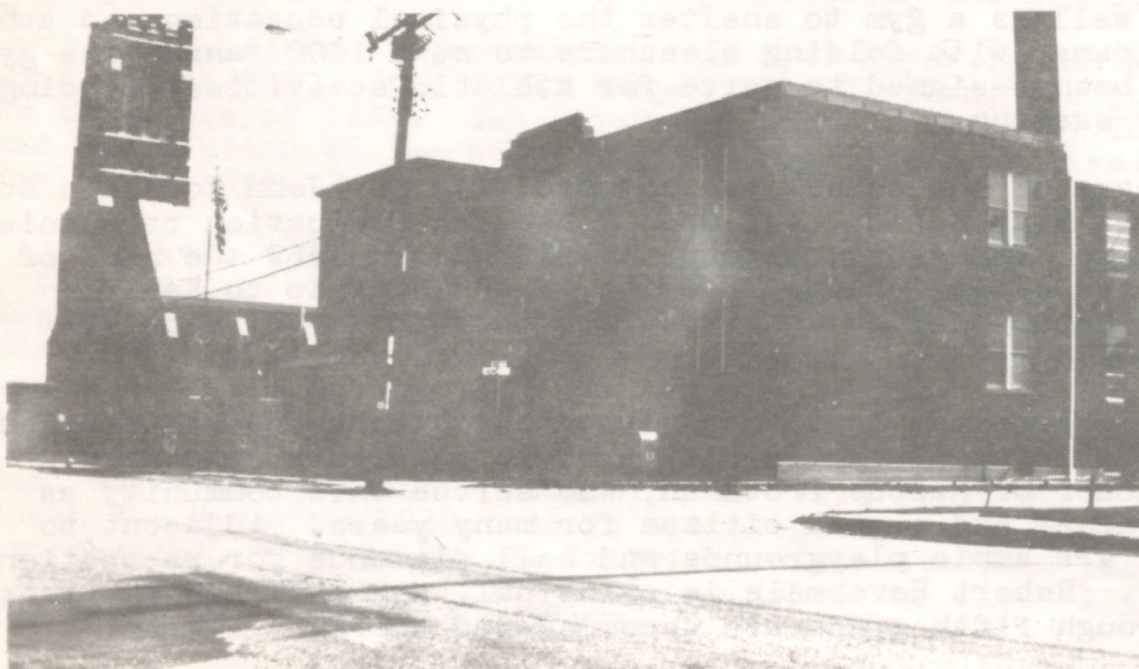
KAHLER

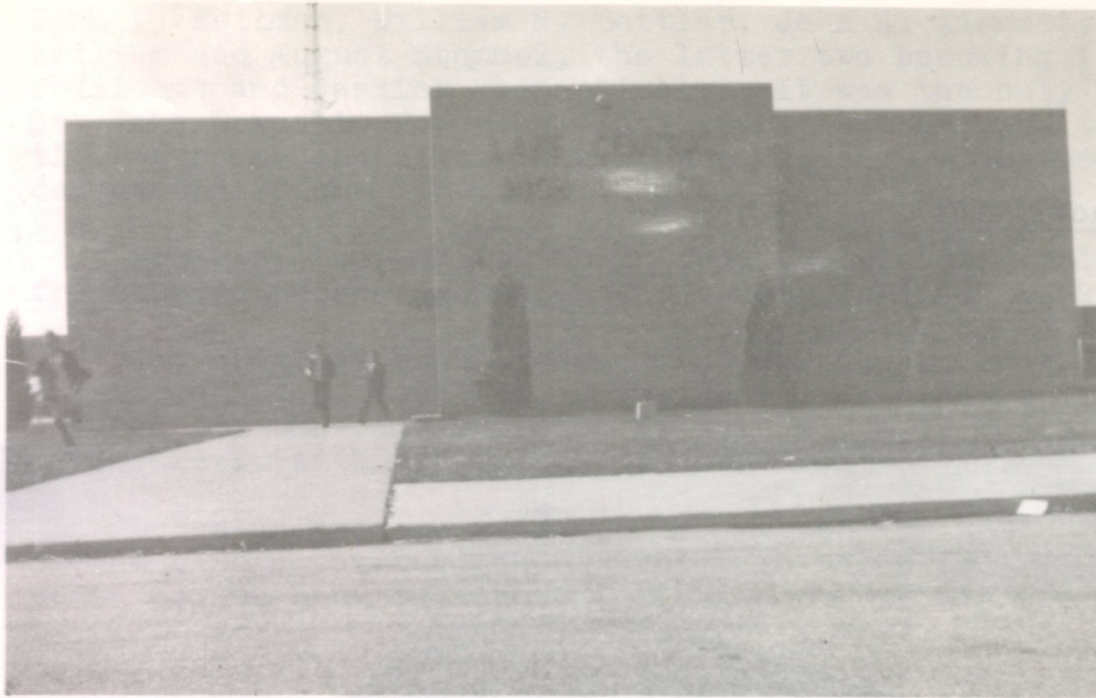
SCHOOL

ST.

JOSEPH'S

SCHOOL





LAKE
CENTRAL
HIGH
SCHOOL -



ENTRANCE
TO
LAKE
CENTRAL

Dyer's educational facilities as of this writing are Protsman, Kahler, Kolling and St. Joseph's, with Lake Central High School serving the Township. Fifty-three hundred students are currently enrolled, and are served by 233 teachers, with Glen Eberly as Principal. This is in addition to St. Joseph's, which is independent of the Township Schools.

Banking Facilities



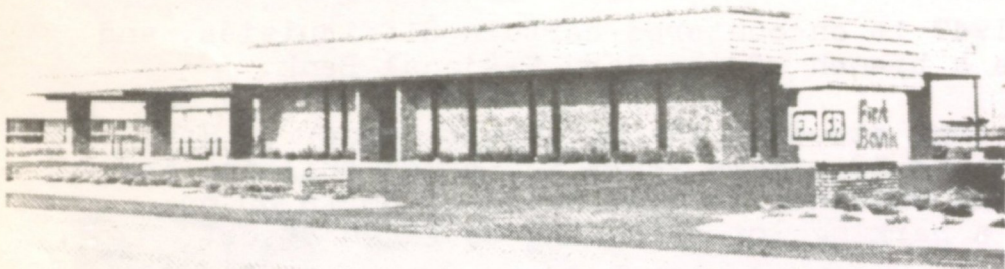
The First National Bank of Dyer was founded in 1903 by John L. Keilman, William N. Gettler, John L. Kimmett, Henry L. Keilman and August Stommel, the latter two becoming its first President and Cashier respectively. It was the only bank in St. John Township for many, many years, and enjoyed the distinction of being one of the very few banks that withstood the great depression of the 1930s.

However, in 1947 it encountered certain difficulties, and from thence became a branch of the Gary National Bank.

The original bank stood on the northwest corner of Hart Street and U. S. Route 30. Some years ago a new building was erected and the bank entrance is just north of Route 30 on Hart Street, with a parking lot extending to Fagen Street.

Drive-in service has been instituted for the convenience of the bank's patrons, and the picture below is a view from the west as the bank is today.





The First Bank of Whiting
 1121 Sheffield Avenue
 Dyer, Indiana 46311
 (219) 865-3100
 (312) 221-3900 (Chicago Line)

9:00 to 5:00
 9:00 to 7:00 (Friday)
 9:00 to 12:30 (Saturday)
 Lobby & Drive-up

Early in April 1973 the Dyer Branch of the First Bank of Whiting opened for business at its modern facilities on Sheffield Avenue. A drive-up window accommodates several cars, and there is space to expand this convenience later. Full banking services are available, and the lobby is air-conditioned. The grand opening included a cocktail hour and dinner for business people and friends at the neighboring restaurant.

The First Bank of Whiting is a well established and dependable financial institution founded and operated by the Schrages, an esteemed Whiting family for many years.

Incorporation of Dyer

On January 24, 1910 citizens of Dyer decided, by a vote of 57 to 35, to incorporate the Town under the laws of the State of Indiana. It was divided into three districts or wards, so that a trustee might be elected from each of these wards, which were then as follows:

First Ward - All land within the Town of Dyer lying West of Hart Street;

Second Ward - All land within the Town east of Hart Street and South of U. S. 30;

Third Ward - All land within Dyer north of the Lincoln Highway and East of Hart Street. Therefore the Board of Trustees, which governs the Town, was composed of three members who, with the Clerk-Treasurer, are elected every four years. Ward boundaries have been changed several times.

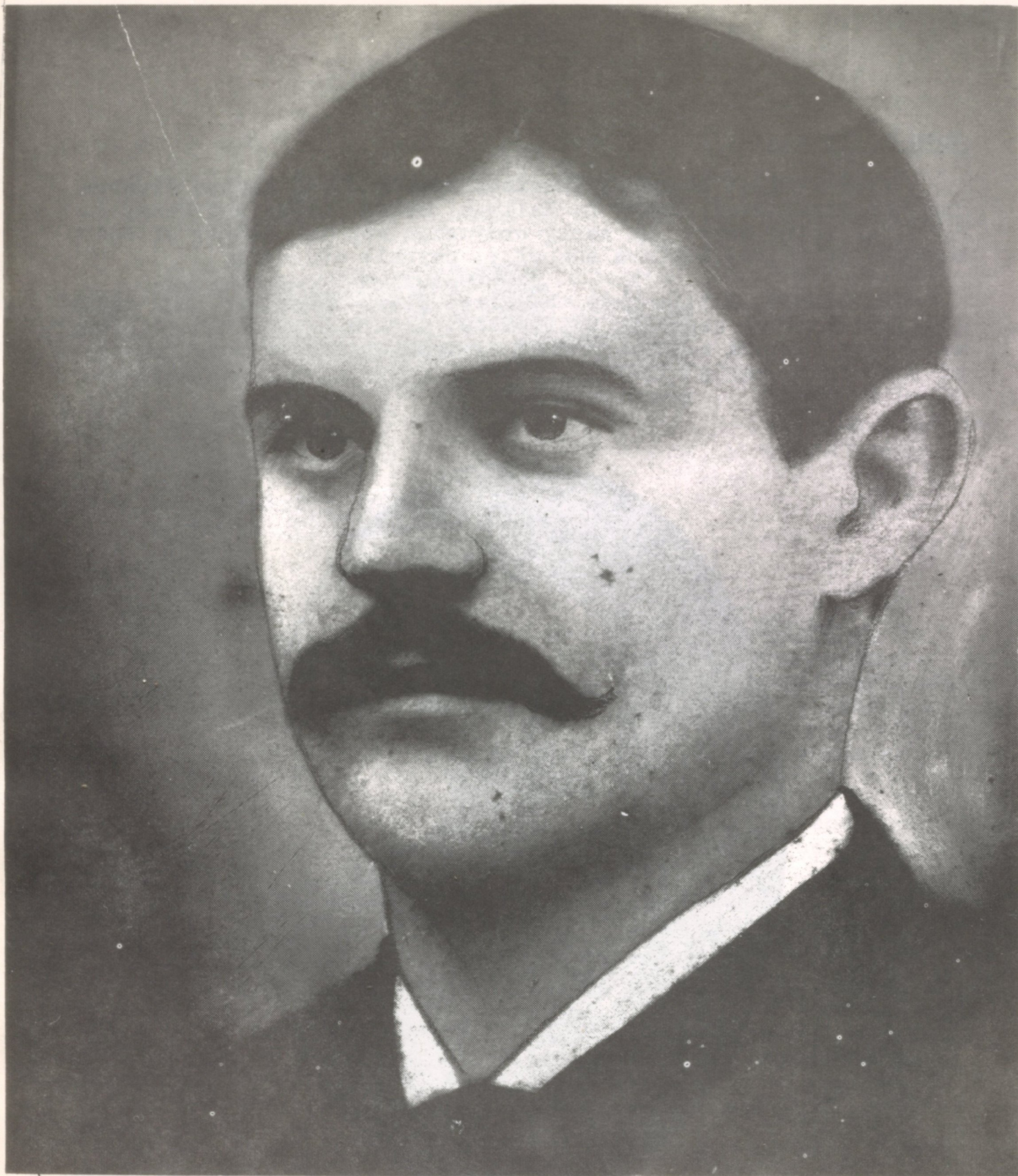
Town Officials

Dyer's first Board of Trustees were Michael Fagen, Trustee for the First Ward; Henry L. Keilman, Second Ward; and Henry J. Schulte, Third Ward. An early ordinance set the salary of Board members at thirty dollars annually, payable quarterly.

William N. Gettler was the first Clerk-Treasurer, and served the Town in that capacity until 1939. His salary at the beginning was sixty dollars a year, and it is interesting to note that most of the Town's early minutes and other records are hand written.



Henry L. Keilman
Trustee - Second Ward- 1910
FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Michael Fagen

Trustee First Ward

1910



Henry J. Schulte
Trustee Third Ward
1910



Paul T. Gettler succeeded his uncle as Clerk-Treasurer, and served as such from 1939 to 1949, when Elmer P. Miller was elected, and he served from 1949 to and including the year 1959.

Apparently the first Board was re-elected to office for another term, because they served until March of 1915, when Henry J. Schulte resigned upon moving from his ward, and William H. Friedrich was appointed to fill his unexpired term. These three continued in office until 1922, when John H. Burge assumed representation of the Second Ward, in place of Henry L. Keilman, Messrs. Fagen and Friedrich remaining on the Board. However, early in 1924 Mr. Friedrich retired from the Board, and N. G. Austgen was appointed in his place.

This Board continued for another term, but sometime during 1929 N. W. Fagen's signatures are affixed to ordinances, and it is this scrivener's belief that the elder Fagen's health was failing, and his son was appointed to take his place, but records are not specific about this. However, Michael Fagen did die during 1929.

During the next term beginning with 1930, that Board continued in office until December 5, 1933, when Ordinance 151 $\frac{1}{2}$ indicates the retirement of John H. Burge from the Board, and a subsequent Ordinance No. 152 of April 2, 1934 shows the appointment of Henry J. Schulte to fill that vacancy.

In the fall of 1943 John H. Burge, Peter J. Herrman and Elmer P. Miller were elected to the Board, and took office in January 1944 for the ensuing four years.

Verne Miller, Roland W. Winters and James P. Higgins were members of the Board beginning January 1, 1949, but on December 29, 1949 Verne Miller resigned when he moved from Dyer, and Frank J. Banker was appointed in his place and finished that term.

Trustees for the term beginning January 1, 1952 were A. E. Peschel, representing First Ward; Frank J. Banker, Second Ward; Roland W. Winters, Third Ward. Mr. Banker moved to Arizona in 1954, and upon his resignation Roy C. Hilbrich was appointed to finish his term of office.

In 1956 John E. Knutson, Thomas Doolin and Joseph Dubeck assumed their positions on the Board, but on May 1, 1957 Mr. Doolin resigned and James M. Hilbrich was appointed and served to the end of that term.

In 1960 an entirely new Board ascended to power under the Action Party banner. Vernon Seliger was elected to represent the First Ward; William B. Howell, Second Ward, and Lewis Smith, Third Ward. Joseph A. Rokosz was the new Clerk-Treasurer. During the summer of 1961, however, Mr. Howell resigned his post, and Robert Sipes was appointed in his place.

In 1964 a slate elected by the Independent Party assumed office and served the entire term. The Board was composed of M.E. Olson, Donald Peeples and Charles E. Neil, and Jane Nelson was the Clerk-Treasurer. The Independents were again successful in the fall election of 1967 and returned the incumbents to office, except that Mr. Olson chose not to run for re-election, and Marshall Baranowski was elected to represent the north ward of Town.

In the 1971 election, the Democratic Party succeeded in wresting the town offices away from the incumbents, and in the following January succeeded to power, the new Board being William McCambridge, First Ward; Glen Eberly, Second Ward; and Thomas Jacobs, Third Ward. Donna Jones is Clerk-Treasurer, and as of this writing they are still in office.



Wm. Mc Cambridge



Glen Eberly



Thomas Jacobs

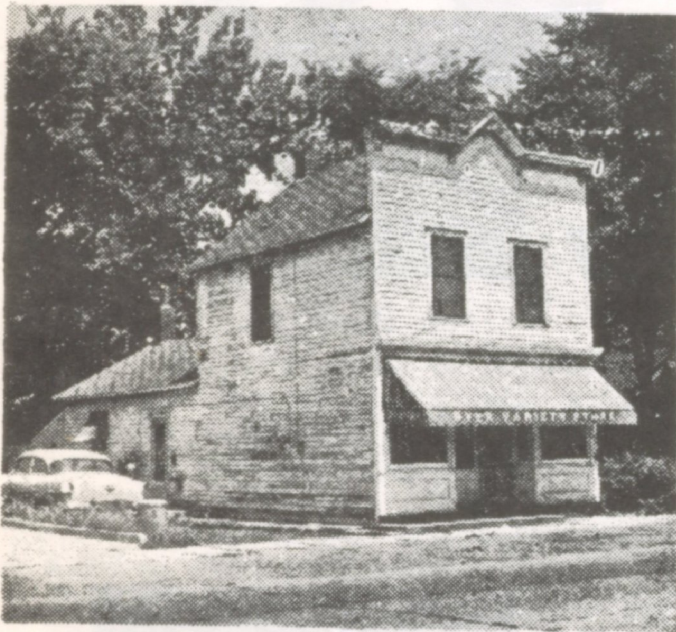


Donna Jones

Salaries have risen in proportion to the responsibilities assumed, trustees now drawing \$150 per month, and the Clerk-Treasurer \$675, with assistants in her office drawing various rates.

Building inspectors for the Board are Gerald Teutemacher and Hubert Dumbky; Electrical Inspectors are Robert Young and Brad Taylor, and Plumbing Inspectors are Ronald Reichelt and James Krager.

Town Meetings



Birthplace of Dyer is this store at 229 Joliet St. where first town meetings were held.

The first town meeting was held on March 10, 1919 in a store building owned by Henry Schulte at 229 Joliet Street, which still stands. Meetings were held there for some time, and the owner was paid two dollars rent for each meeting. Later Forester Hall was used for the meeting place, it being above the Post Office in a building east of Lansing Cleaners, which was razed many years ago.

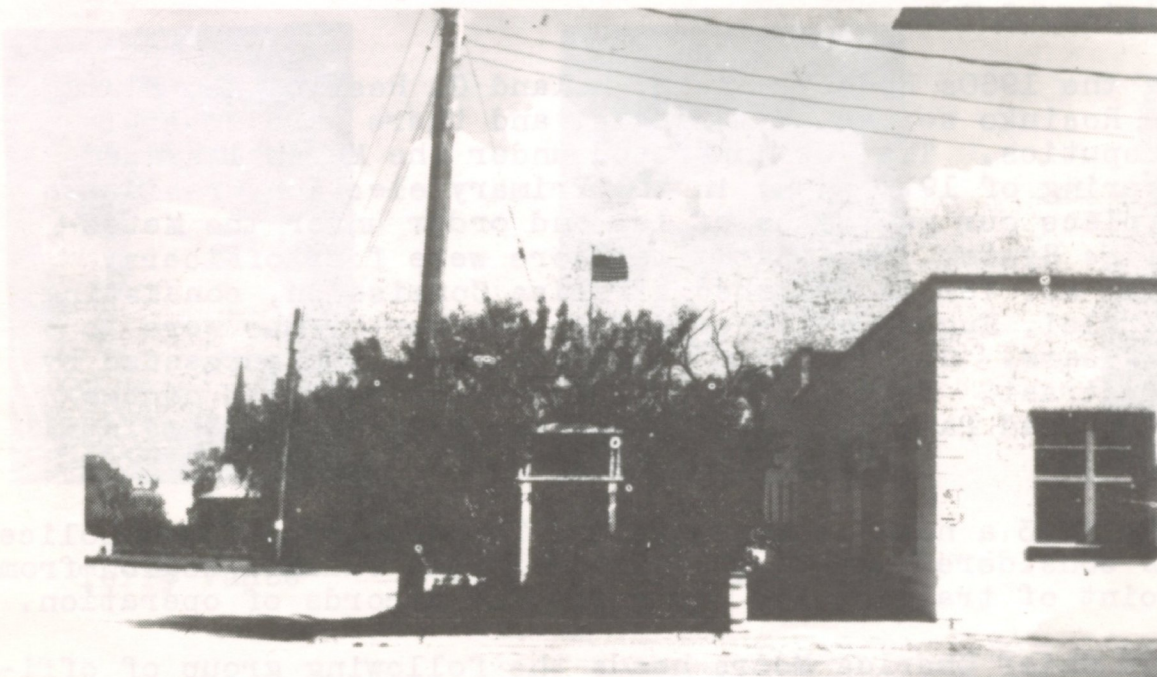
In 1915 the Municipal Water Utility was established, and soon thereafter the Fire Department. A small building was erected to shelter the well mechanism and the first equipment of the Fire Department. After that meetings were also held in that building, as attendance was not great.

But late in the 1930s, a large addition was made to that first building as a WPA project, to employ some of the Town's unemployed unfortunates. This provided the meeting room that is in use today, and town meetings are held there on the second Tuesday evening of each month, with Plan Commission meeting following the next Tuesday. Other arms of town government include the Board of Zoning Appeals, Board of Parks and Recreation, the Police Commission and the Dyer Youth Commission, all of which meet at the Town Hall, as well as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Senior Citizens Club and any such civic group, but town hall facilities are not available to private groups - it is a public building, and arrangements to meet there must be made with the Clerk-Treasurer, whose office is in this

building, and is open five days a week, including Friday evenings until 8.



TOWN
HALL
FROM
N. E.



FROM
THE
WEST

It is interesting to ponder on some of the matters taken up at early meetings. One of the first ordinances required the construction of cinder sidewalks by owners of property. Another

provides for the installation of coal oil street lights and the hiring of a boy by the Town Marshal to help him clean and fill same. Still another required peddlers to pay a license fee of several dollars per day for the privilege of selling wares from door to door. At one of the meetings in 1910 the Northwest Traction Company presented a franchise for street car service in Dyer, but obviously this never materialized.

Law Enforcement

Shortly after the Town's incorporation in 1910, Mr. Eugene Stech was appointed Dyer's first Marshal, at a salary of \$25.00 per month, and his duties were comprehensive. But with the advent of the horseless carriage a few years later, marshaling became a greater responsibility with cars zooming through the intersection at fifteen or twenty miles an hour! After some years he suffered poor health, and others were appointed, some of them being Joseph L. Endres, Henry Batterman, John Moeller, Louis M. Hartman, Joseph Hoffman, Paul Miller, Frank Grunewald and Clifford Giese, as well as William James and Richard James. All of these men superintended laborers for the Street Department and the Water Utility in addition to their other duties. During the 1950s the Marshal was relieved of duties incidental to the Water Utility and the Street Department, and James P. Higgins was appointed Superintendent over those utilities.

During the 1960s Rodney Rankin, Roland C. Restle, Leo Klamm and Richard Rosinko served as Marshals, and there were several full-time deputies. The Town operated under the Marshal system until the spring of 1971 when, in the Primary election, residents elected to place our guardians of law and order under the Metropolitan Police System. At that time there were four officers, and Ordinance No. 792 established a Police Commission, consisting of LeRoy Cataldi, Eugene Anderson and Gordon Werth, who were to serve three years. Gordon Werth later resigned, was succeeded by Robert Waterstraat. However, he has since been replaced on the Commission by Fred Pasternak, the other two original members still serving thereon.

In July 1973 a news item states the Town employed seven policemen. It is considered one of the finest in the Calumet Region from the standpoint of training and equipment and records of operation.

In 1975 Chief Charles Moore heads the following group of officers: Sgt. Charles Thompson, Det. Louis R. Barnes (Juvenile Officer), Brian Furman, Keith A. Hefner. Thomas Hoffman, Clarence Richwalski, Richard Rosinko, Ronald M. Sobczak, Terry Vance and David Walker - Pictures follow:



RICHARD ROSINKO



DAVID WALKER



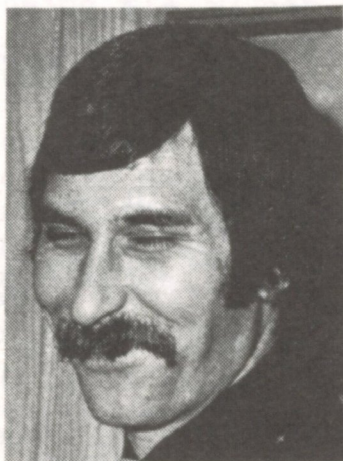
RICHARD BARNES



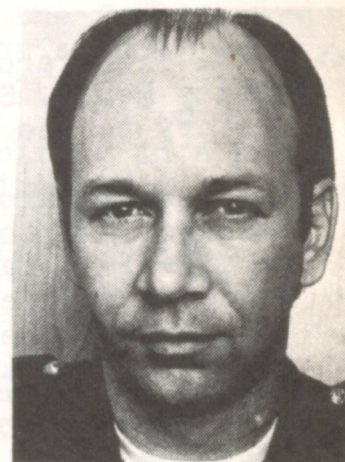
THOMAS HOFFMAN



**Officer
Terry Vance**



**Officer
Charles Thompson**



**Officer
Brian Furman**



Chief Moore congratulates Officers Keith Hefner, Clarence Richwalski and Ron Sobczak on the completion of a two-week training course at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield.

There are five radio operators: Myrtle Bober, Lana Peeples, Betty Mears, Sue Matlock and Lois Wolff, with Lela Howell as secretary to the Chief.

There are five police cars in operation; one unmarked and four marked. Three patrol cars and one patrol sergeant are constantly available. Each car covers two square miles in order to assure speedy service. Chief Moore started a walking beat over a year ago to give business places and pedestrians on the streets better protection from trouble makers.

With the Police Force grown in number to ten, the first local F. O. P. lodge was inaugurated in 1975. Tom Hoffman is President, Louis Barnes is Vice-President, and David Walker is Secretary-Treasurer. Richard Rosinko is Lodge Conductor. They have great hopes for future benefits from this organization.

Consistent with the growth in business areas and population, our Police Department stands ready and capable of meeting the needs of the Community, and it is satisfying to have such a well-trained force to uphold law and order and protect the ordinary citizen and his property.

Growth and Population

An early scrap book record of 1893 says that the Town had 250 inhabitants at that time. In 1910 and for many years thereafter, population was listed at 500, but in the depression years, Suburban Gardens and Calumet Farms areas were populated, which brought about a considerable increase. By 1950 it had reached 1556.

The ensuing years saw the development of Plum Creek Addition and Plum Creek Annex south of town and west of Hart Street, and East Suburban Addition south of 213th Street near the eastern boundary of town, as well as Suburban Terrace Addition east of the Monon Railroad and north of the Michigan Central tracks. Growth brought about by these developments was reflected in the 1960 census, which totaled 3993.

Schilling's Subdivision too had been started in the fifties, and grew steadily during the 1960s. A special census was taken by the Town in 1968 in order to avail itself of certain state monies that are dispensed on a per capita basis, and that showed a total of 4496. Kanenga's and Monaldi's Subdivisions, as well as various additions to Suburban Gardens all added their impact, and the 1970 census set the population figure at 4778.

All of this growth brought about the necessity for planning and zoning regulations, better drainage, sewage disposal and expanded school facilities, all of which caused tax rates to skyrocket, Dyer's rate now being \$14.30 per hundred - the Town's portion of that being \$2.89. The rest is allocated for school, county, library and state purposes.

In 1975 a special census was taken again, resulting in a count of 7396, as growth of the Town has spread in all directions - Pheasant Hills to the south, additions to Schillings in the southeast, Heritage Estates north and west, and Northgate in the northeast corner of the corporation boundaries.

Apartments and town houses have made their appearance along the east side of the 1500 block of Sheffield Avenue, and a major apartment complex was put into operation in the Northgate area on Harrison Street in 1970. A small shopping area on Sheffield Avenue made its debut in 1969, and some of the fairly new businesses are Bank of Whiting, Demaree's Colonial Furniture, Kentucky Fried Chicken, The Red Barn, The Dog House, Chub's Pub, The Golden Dragon, Ace Hardware, Seven Eleven Store, The Dairy Queen, Country Squire Inn Restaurant and Lounge, Barton's Glass, Cataldi's Drugs, Laundromats, Dyer Safety Center, Adam's Florist, Doral's Paint'n Place, Zandstra Men's Store, J & L Auto Supply, Dyer Animal Clinic, Pumpkin Shell Beauty Shop, Stitch'n Time Fabrics, Dyer TV Shop, Dyer Auto Supply, Jean Freeland Accounts, Miss Carol's School of Dance, Patti's Acrobatic School, and a new Jewel Store.

Municipal Water Utility

In 1915 the Dyer Municipal Water Utility was established, and for many years the only source of supply was one well about 274 feet deep. The main part of town was serviced, but the outlying sections derived their water supply from private wells. In 1959 a second well was drilled for an alternate source of supply.

Because Dyer water was available only to a confined area, business expansion has been somewhat hampered. Some people were reluctant to see the Town grow, but as citizens began seeking a refuge from city living, expansion was inevitable and development could not be prevented.

Extension of the Town's water mains was made from time to time and of course, developers had to extend distribution mains throughout their own subdivisions.

Dyer's water is very, very hard and there have been many spirited battles in the inner sanctums of town government as to whether the Town should resort to lake water supply. But the distance to be traversed, as well as the fact that extensive exploration discloses the existence of an ample supply of water below us for a good time to come, were factors in the Board's decision when it erected a Water Treatment Plant on Moeller Street in the late sixties for the purpose of softening water at the source. The water is much improved, but in order to pay for the improvements, a revenue bond issue for \$520,000 was floated, and rates for service raised accordingly by the Public Service Commission of Indiana. Certain of these bonds mature each year, and of course interest payments must be made continuously.

Present town trustees plan a large expansion of water facilities in the coming year. A water tank is to be erected east of town off Route 30 to the south, which will store 500,00 gallons of water. There is to be another well between the present water treatment plant and Henry Street. Capacity of the water treatment plant will be doubled and mains will be provided to all parts of town to make water service available to all.

The Fire Department

From 1858 to 1915 the Town of Dyer had no organized Fire Department. Records reveal that there were many fires, and most of the buildings that caught fire were completely destroyed, the only method of fire fighting being the bucket brigade - water was carried from cisterns, wells, or Plum Creek. Some early losses by fire were:

- 1 - A planing mill built in 1864 - destroyed by fire 1872;
- 2 - St. Joseph's Church built in 1867 - destroyed in 1902;
- 3 - State Line Hotel - destroyed by fire in 1880;
- 4 - Hay & Press barn built in 1860 - destroyed in 1872;
- 5 - Door & Blind factory built in 1867 - destroyed 1872;
- 6 - Furniture Store opened in 1867 - destroyed in 1869.

"A fire in those days was a terrifying thing - the pounding at your door, the cry of fire and the helplessness in combating a fire with no equipment and no trained men." (A quote from one of the early settlers.)

In 1915 when the Water Works was almost completed, a group of enterprising men organized the Dyer Volunteer Fire Department. The town records read thus: "A group of our young men, having organized a Volunteer Fire Department, have asked for the purchase of some equipment." Town Board members at this time were Henry L. Keilman, William H. Friedrich and Michael Fagen. They thought the idea very good, and gave the volunteers their support." The original group of men elected as their leaders:

John Burge, Fire Chief;

Andrew Peschel, Assistant Chief;

Leo J. Hoffman, Hose Captain;

Frank Beiriger, Ladder Captain;

Nicholas Austgen, Secy.- Treasurer.

Other charter members of the Department were Nicholas Fagen, Joseph F. Gettler, Paul T. Gettler, Matt Herrman, Peter Herrman, William Herrman, Michael Nondorf, Herbert Keilman, Philip Keilman, Joseph M. Schaller, Peter Schaller, George Spanier, Henry Spanier and William Zeisenhenne.



John H. Burge
First Chief



Andrew Peschel
Asst. Chief



Leo Hoffman
Hose Captain

ORIGINAL OFFICERS



Frank Beiriger of Hammond,
First Ladder Captain & Only
Survivor of Original Members
of Fire Department

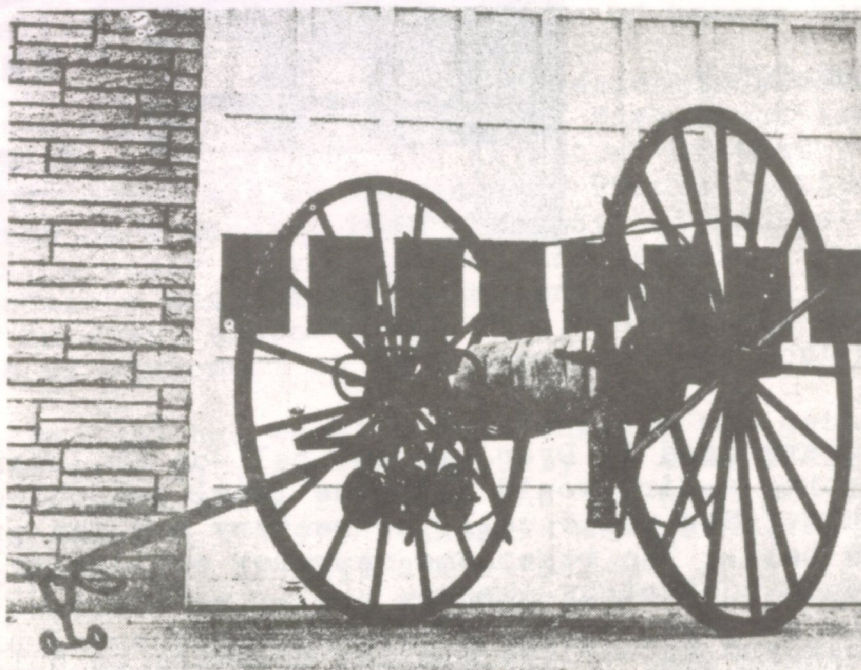


Nicholas G. Austgen,
1st Secy.-Treasurer &
Second Chief of
Fire Department



Early View of Dyer Looking
Northwest from Water Tower

Town moneys had been depleted to develop that much needed water service, so collections were taken up to furnish equipment, the first of which was a hose cart dragged to fires by the men. This and a ladder wagon were the only equipment at first, and there are conflicting records as to who did the work of converting a light-weight buggy chassis to a ladder wagon. Henry Batterman, Henry Schulte and Peter Grau were blacksmiths about town, and inquiry indicates that all of them may have shared in the work of adapting what they had to the use it must serve. A longer reach was inserted between the front and rear wheels of the buggy chassis to support a rack upon which ladders could be layered. The original hose cart has become a souvenir of earlier days, and is still sheltered in the equipment building.



1915
HOSE CART
--
FIRST
EQUIPMENT

There was no place to keep the equipment, so the Town Marshal, Eugene Stech, donated the use of his barn for the hose cart, and Joseph Schaller donated the use of his horse shed behind the Dyer Hotel for storage of the ladder wagon.

The first fire station was a building 18' x 20' x 16' bought from Frank Scheidt for the sum of \$125. on June 7, 1916. Moeller Brothers were hired by the Town Board to move it to town property, where it was then used to shelter those first two bits of equipment, and later a chemical cart.

When the first fire truck was purchased in 1920, it was put in the Water Department Building. As vehicles were added, more space was needed, so in 1955 a new Fire Station was erected. It was designed to house four trucks, but has accommodated an extra. It has a meeting room, small kitchen, a washroom and storage space in the basement, which was remodeled in order to utilize space formerly occupied by the Police Department.

On September 11, 1972, the Town Board accepted a bid of \$22,647.97 for an addition to the Fire Station. Members of the Department remodeled the inside and painted it both inside and out, using a total of plus 1032 man hours labor to do so, the only cost to the Town being for materials.

DYER FIRE STATION TODAY

1975



Fire Alarm System

The first fire alarm used in Dyer was the bell on St. Joseph's Church. Anyone reporting a fire would call the local telephone operator, Mrs. Carnahan. She would call the rectory and the priest would ring the church bell. The telephone operator would also notify all firemen she could contact by 'phone.

In 1916 the Town Board authorized Moeller Brothers to build a bell tower thirty feet high and strong enough to hold a 1200 pound bell, the cost of which was to be \$100. In 1939 when the water storage tank was erected, the bell was moved to that structure.

A Federal Five HP siren was bought in 1942 and mounted on the water tower, at a cost of \$410. It was used for 22 years but was never completely satisfactory due to the terrain, as it did not penetrate certain areas in adverse weather conditions.

In July 1964 the Fire Department bought a Federal Ten HP siren, which, with controls, cost \$840, and this is large enough to penetrate the complete area of the Town, and is expected to serve as an air raid alarm as well as a fire alarm.

During the summer of 1972 the original Fire Bell of 1916 was removed from the water tower, refinished and placed on a concrete pedestal in front of the Town Hall. On August 14, 1972 it was dedicated as a memorial to the past, present and future firemen of the Town of Dyer.

On November 22, 1970 the Alert System was changed from the nine telephones and siren switches in respective firemen's homes to a Bell Telephone Alert System at the Dyer Police Station. The Police Operator takes emergency calls, activates the Alert System, and it rings telephones in every fireman's home, the fire siren being automatically activated at the same time.

Equipment

In 1916 a chemical wagon was purchased. It consisted of a tank into which chemical was poured and mixed with water. Two men operated the pump handle to provide pressure, and men usually propelled the wagon unless a team of horses happened to be handy.

In May of 1920 a group of residents presented a petition, asking the Town Board to purchase a fire truck inasmuch as the Town had shown some growth, and in August of that year the Town complied. The new truck was an American La France Chemical and Hose Truck, mounted on a Model T Ford chassis. It consisted of two chemical tanks, a water tank, hose bed and ladders. A fire pump mounted in the chassis was driven by the engine. The chemicals were very hard on eyes, clothing and skin, but it was considered a modern piece of equipment at that time, and had cost \$2,400.

By 1930 the Model T Ford chassis was getting obsolete and pretty worn out, so in February of that year, the Town bought a Model A Ford Truck chassis, and the pump and chemical tanks were transferred to it. The chassis cost \$544.71, and the Fire Department paid half of that sum with funds raised by sponsoring a dance. The practice of having an annual dance has continued to this day, and a large percentage of the fire fighting equipment has been paid for from funds accumulated in this manner. By October 1, 1935 it became necessary to discard the chemical and water tanks from this truck because of deterioration caused by the chemicals. A new water tank was installed, and a 250 GPM Waterous Water Pump was secured and mounted on the truck at a cost of \$446.65. It is still in use on the 1952 Dodge Tanker.

After Calumet Farms and Suburban Gardens Subdivisions had been developed in the 1930s, it was evident that more equipment was needed in order to protect residents outside the water serviced area of town. So on September 25, 1939 a Seagraves Pumper was added, at a cost of \$6,365. It is completely equipped with a 500 GPM two-stage pump, 250 gallon tank, extension ladders,

roof ladder, 1000 feet of $2\frac{1}{2}$ " , 300 feet of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and 100 feet of 1" hose, etc. The Fire Department paid \$1,000 of the price for this truck, and it is still in use.

After World War 2, the Town grew rapidly, and the increased population brought a proportionate need for heart attack and respiratory ailment emergency help. Consequently the Fire Department bought its first E & J Resuscitator in October of 1947. The cost of same was \$768, and all firemen are taught to operate it, and given First Aid training as well. Two of the firemen are Red Cross instructors.

In 1953 the Department purchased a 1953 Model Ford Vanette Emergency Truck to carry smoke masks, resuscitators, raincoats, helmets, oxygen, fire extinguishers, blankets, salvage tarps, stretcher, first-aid kits, 3000-Watt light plant, etc. It has room enough in it for the firemen to get into boots, raincoats, helmets, etc. while the truck is enroute to a fire, which saves much time. This truck cost \$2,535, and is taken on every call. Members of the Department provided all labor and materials for the drawers, shelves and hinges to carry the equipment.

In March 1954 Clark Transportation Company donated a 1952 Dodge truck to the Fire Department. The men lengthened the frame, drive shaft, etc. and built a 1000 gallon tank, which was mounted on this truck, and the 250 GPM pump from the old Model A Ford was built into this unit. The cost of materials totaled \$800, and all labor was donated by firemen.





ANOTHER OLDIE



AN OLDIE RESTORA

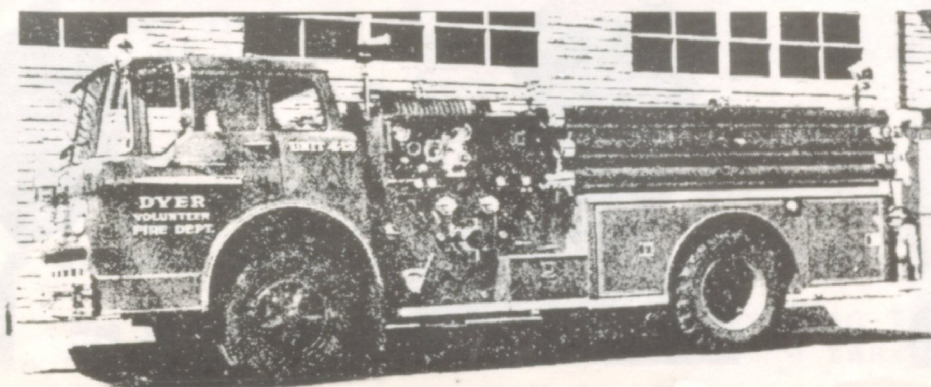
In July of 1962 a new Seagraves 1000 GPM Pumper with a 750 gallon tank mounted at the factory on a 1962 Ford C850 Chassis was purchased. It has four 2½" hose outlets and two hose reels with 300 feet of 1" booster hose, 1000 feet of 2½" hose and 300 feet of 1½" hose. These specifications were recommended by the Indiana Rating Bureau, as Dyer had attained a population of 4000, and this equipment was part of a program to keep the Town in a 7th Class rating. A drop in rating would mean increased insurance rates. Acquisition of this truck assured residents of Dyer better fire protection, especially in areas that have no fire hydrants. It was provided by the Town at a cost of \$20,795 from the Seagraves Corporation on a lease rental basis over a four-year term, and the Fire Department donated \$5,000 to the Town to cover the first payment.

A new ¾ ton four-wheeled drive jeep was purchased by the Fire Department in April 1964, for fighting grass or other small fires that might be inaccessible to a larger vehicle. It is equipped with a 150 gallon tank, one reel of ¾" hose, one reel of 1½" hose and a pump driven by a Briggs & Stratton engine. All labor of building the tank, piping to the pump and hose reels was done by men of the Department at no charge, effecting a savings of about \$2500. The call number of this truck is 4-15.

On November 9, 1970 the Fire Department bought a wrecked 1969 four-wheel drive Dodge Power Wagon Fire Truck for \$1800. It had been driven only 679 miles, and was built originally for the Bensenville, Illinois Fire Department at a cost of \$13,000. Dyer Firemen repaired and repainted this truck and used it to replace the 1964 Jeep truck, which was given to the Town for its use.

The Fire Department purchased a 1974 Chevrolet Suburban in January 1974. This vehicle is used for First Aid and Resuscitator calls, and cost the Department \$4,271.

On March 27, 1975 the Fire Department accepted delivery of a 1000 Gallon per minute Ford Darley 3-Stage pumper with a 750 gallon tank. It had been ordered in 1973, and cost the Town of Dyer \$39,179.87.



Fire Department Personnel

Having been a member of the Crown Point Fire Department while he lived there, John Burge was elected Dyer's First Chief, as he was the only resident who had had any experience in this line. He served in that capacity for seven years, and remained in the Department for 21 years. In 1923 Nick Austgen, another charter member, was elected Chief, and served as such for ten years. Following are the names of all the chiefs and the length of time each served:

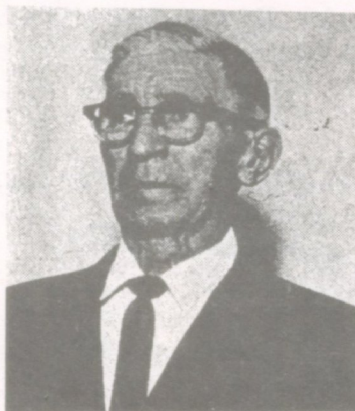
| NAME | Served as Chief |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| John Burge | 7 years |
| Nicholas Austgen. | 10 years |
| Paul Miller. | 17 years |
| * John Dumbsky. | 9 months |
| ** Joseph Miklik. | 3 months |
| Robert Austgen. | 12 years |
| Arthur Herrman | 3 years |
| Thomas Hilbrich | 8 years |
| Ewald Rietmann | Present Chief |

* Became Ill and Died While in the Department

** Acting Chief



John Dumbsky



Paul F. Miller



Thomas Hilbrich



Arthur W. Herrman



Robert P. Austgen



Ewald Rietman

The Department's first by-laws were printed in book form in March, 1916, and provided for an Honorary Retired Roll. To qualify for this, a fireman had to:

- 1 - Have served 20 years as a fireman;
- 2 - Have reached the age of 55; or
- 3 - Be permanently ill or disabled,

and this rule is still in effect. Those on the Honorary Retired list are:

| NAME | YEARS OF SERVICE |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| John Burge | 21 |
| Nicholas Austgen | 23 |
| Paul T. Gettler | 20 |
| Clem Gettler | 20 |
| William J. Gettler | 24 |
| Leo Hoffman | 31 |
| Alois Keilman | 33 |
| Elmer P. Miller | 25 |
| Paul Miller | 25 |
| * Otto Pence | 7 |
| Andrew Peschel | 26 |
| ** Wilfred Terry | 16 |
| John J. Thiel | 32 |
| Clarence Wehmeyer | 20 |
| Joseph Hoffman | 25 |
| John Dumbky | 23 |
| ** Bernard Berg | 10 |
| Ludwig Grothaus | 21 |
| Joseph M. Schaller | 23 |
| William Zeisenhenne | 20 |
| Henry Spanier | 20 |
| Joseph F. Gettler | 20 |
| Gilbert Hoffman | 20 |
| Kenneth Hoffman | 20 |
| Robert Austgen | 28 |
| Kenneth Murray | 20 |
| Donald Austgen | 22 |
| Maurice Keilman | 33 |
| Joseph Grothaus | 39 |

* Retired at Age 55 ** Retired because of poor health
Others who died while in the Department:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Joseph Kahler | 2 |
| Philip Keilman | 24 |
| A. Erwin Peschel | 39 |
| Anthony Vander Heyden | 16 |

The number of years these men served in the Fire Department is mute testimony of their dedication to the task of helping fellow citizens in emergencies.

Fire Department Line Officers for 1975

Ewald Rietmann Chief
Raymond Burke Assistant Chief
Ronald Dumbsky Captain
Donald Meyer First Lieutenant
E. M. Benninghoff Second Lieutenant

Board of Directors for 1975

John Quinn, President; Ronald Reichelt, Vice-President;
James Hilbrich, Secretary; Robert Nutt, Treasurer; Gary
Stutler, Willisford Kaiser, Raymond Burke, David Jones and
Arthur Herrman.

Finance and Equipment Committee

Arthur Burke Kenneth Koenemann William Schulte

Present Membership

| Name | Yrs. on Dept. | Name | Yrs. On Dept. |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| John Alletto | 2 | Ronald Klassen | 3 |
| Richard Asplund | 5 | Kenneth Koenemann | 5 |
| Arthur Burke | 9 | James Lemieux | 2 |
| Raymond Burke | 17 | Lawrence Margraf | 8 |
| Colin Duffala | 1 | Donald Meyer | 11 |
| Ronald Dumbsky | 23 | Edward Miller | 29 |
| Richard Ferguson | 19 | James Mullins | 18 |
| Jeffrey Furman | 1 | Robert Nutt | 23 |
| Roy Hansen | 15 | John Ozanics | 2 |
| Norbert Held | 14 | John Quinn | 8 |
| Arthur Herrman | 24 | Ronald Reichelt | 9 |
| James M. Hilbrich | 23 | Ewald Rietmann | 22 |
| Patrick Hilbrich | 2 | William Schulte | 5 |
| Thomas Hilbrich | 26 | Gary Stutler | 10 |
| David Jones | 5 | James Thomas | 7 |
| Willisford Kaiser | 22 | Michael Vander Heyden | 31 |
| Keith Keilman | 20 | | |

Past Members Not Otherwise Mentioned

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Robert Ahlers | James Cormican |
| Harold Austgen | Alfred Dumbsky |
| Maurice Baker | Joseph Dumbsky |
| Michael Bodnar | Joseph Duzan |
| Edward Bowles | Alex Ehram |
| Arthur Brewer | Harry Elliott |
| Mike Burson | Joseph Endres |
| Richard Buturff | Russel Engle |
| Charles Cavan | Arthur Froling |

Franz Full
Henry Geis
Edmund Gettler
Frank Gettler
Raymond Gettler
Clifford Giese
- Carl Grabner
Gary Griffiths
Henry Greiving
Sylvester Grothaus
Frank Grunewald
Clarence Hanish
Arthur Hartman
Edmund Hartman
Louis Hartman
Earl Harless
Howard Harless
Roy Helmer
Armand Heroux
James Higgins
Thomas Higgins
Arthur Hilbrich
William Howard
Edward Jewett
Leonard Joiner
William Jones
Nicholas Kaiser
C. J. Keilman
Clarence Keilman
Donald Keilman
Elmer Keilman
Robert Keilman
Peter Kremser
Eugene LeBoeuf
Howard Lane

Matt Margraf
Carl Miklik
Howard Miller
Peter Minniger
Arnold Overhage
Norbert Overhage
John O'Keefe
Eugene Patterson
Lloyd Russel
John Rosinko
Matt Schaller
Michael Schaller
Steven Schaller
Clarence Schelfo
Walter Schmal
Erwin Schweitzer
Paul Schmidt
Helmuth Schwab
Telesphore Schenard
Anthony Schutz
Norbert Seehausen
John Severa
Ernest Sohl
Jack Sohl
Raymond E. Sohl, Sr.
James Stanton
Anthony Stoiber
Clyde Stokes
Wade Stokes
Virgil Stromquist
Cornelius Vanderkolk
Wayne Wallar
William Weaverling
John Mac Williams
Charles Zimmerman

Dyer has one of the best trained and most adequately equipped volunteer fire departments in the State of Indiana. It is affiliated with the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association, which disseminates helpful information and conducts seminars on latest techniques for member departments. Our firemen add a sense of security to the lives of our citizens, and are to be commended for their efforts and their sacrifices. A car with a flashing blue light means a fireman on his way to duty - give him the right of way!

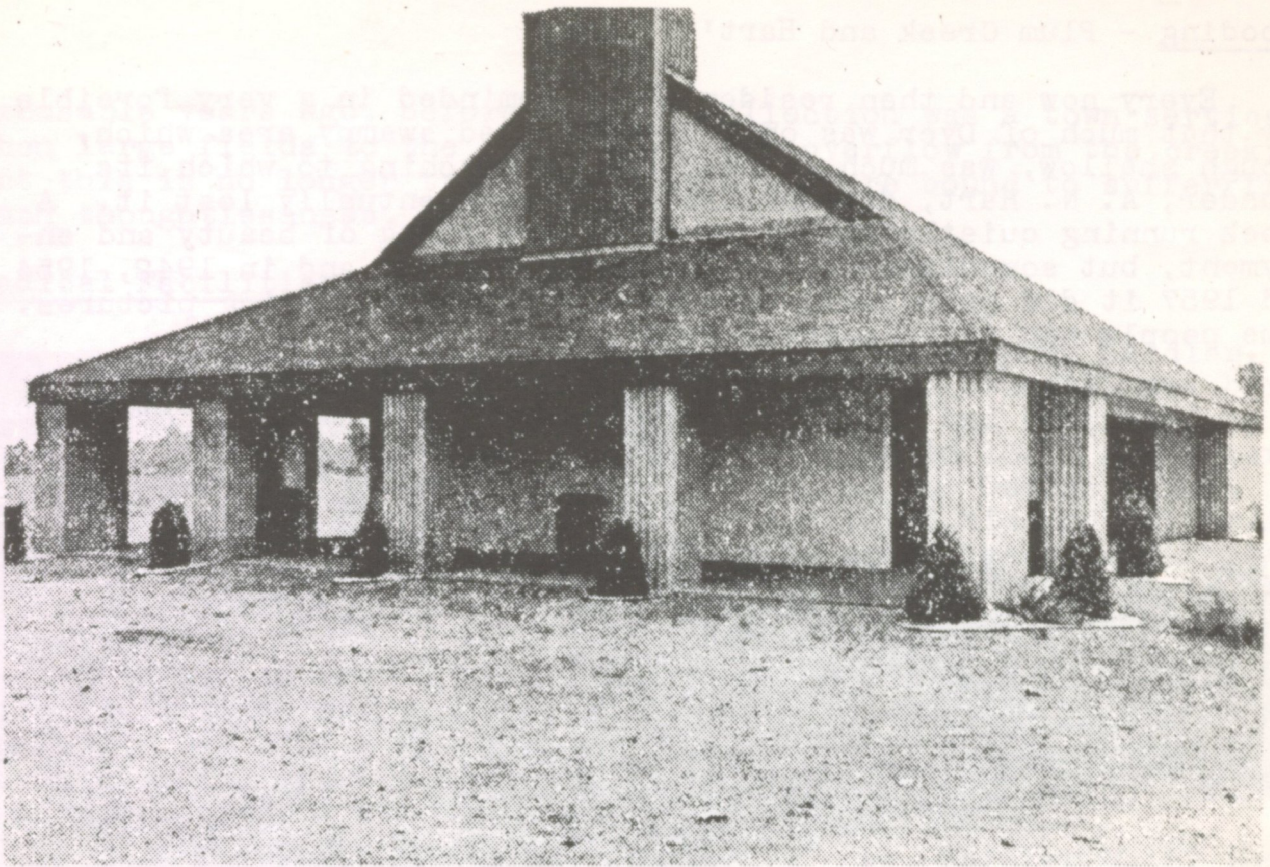
Recreation Facilities

For years Dyer's only park was a plot of ground bounded by Plum Creek on the south and east, houses facing Hart Street on the west, and Dyer Town Hall and Fire Station on the north. It was named Elmer Miller Park shortly after his death in 1969 in recognition of the number of years he spent in service to the Town. It has a tennis court, playground equipment, and a picnic pavilion with barbecue grills for cooking out. It boasts many huge oak trees and is a lovely spot, but is hardly large enough for present needs.



Pavilion Area in Elmer Miller Park in Dyer

In 1971 the Dyer Park and Recreation Board was formed and began at once its attempts to qualify for federal funding to develop the land that had been donated by Ray Seberger, Jr. for Northgate Park. They were successful and ever since the Park was officially dedicated in July of 1974, construction of facilities and improvements have been under way.



Federally Funded Pavilion in Northgate Park

At this time the large pavilion pictured above, plus baseball fields, soft ball fields, one parking lot and some landscaping have been accomplished. Boy Scout Troop 502 is planting 200 trees in honor of the Bicentennial in 1976. Many of our people have devoted much time and effort to this project.

In the summer of 1975, Mr. Bill Glenn of the Lake County Department of Parks and Recreation undertook an Activities Program in Northgate Park. The local Jaycees, Boys Town representatives, Aurich Builders and the Soft Ball League worked hard toward completing installation of the park's equipment, fences, pathways, etc.

In the Heritage Subdivision west to the State Line, a Tot Lot with playground equipment for small children has been developed.

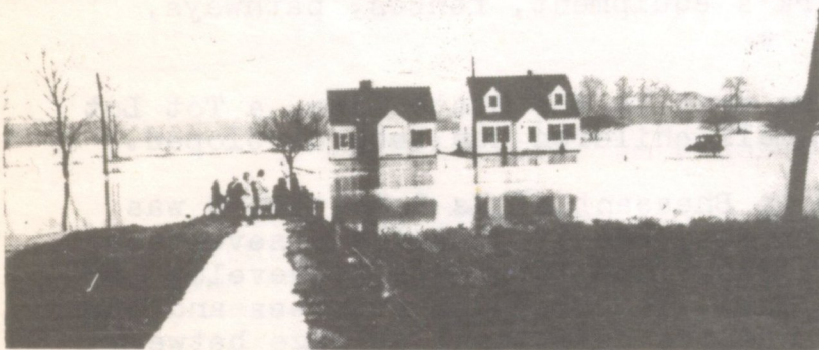
In 1972 considerable land in Pheasant Hills Subdivision was deeded to the Town for park purposes, but it contains a seventeen acre body of water, and has not qualified for funds to develop it so that plans could be carried out. The Board of Trustees and the Park Board are taking steps to acquire additional acreage between this body of water and Hart Street for park purposes, which would enhance this area.

Flooding - Plum Creek and Hart's Ditch

Every now and then residents are reminded in a very forcible way that much of Dyer was once an inundated swampy area which, though shallow, was much in need of the ditching to which its founder, A. N. Hart, devoted his life and eventually lost it. A creek running quietly through a town is a thing of beauty and enjoyment, but sometimes nature goes on a rampage and in 1942, 1954 and 1957 it did just that, as evidenced by accompanying pictures. Some people had to be removed from their homes by boat.



Subsequently the Town undertook dredging and cleaning of the bed of the creek, removing debris accumulated through the years; better drainage was provided from the pond south of Greiving Street to the creek, and the bank of the creek that spilled over into the Greiving St. area was built up much like the levees employed in the South to keep the Mississippi within its boundaries when it is too swelled by melting snow & incident flooding. Also flap gates were added to drain tiles so that pressure of a swollen creek against them would close them and prevent sewer back up.



Many otherwise responsible citizens cause clogging of the creek by dumping discards into it, or allowing tree limbs or even tree trunks to fall into it. The first heavy rain makes the current strong so that it carries everything downstream and large dams of accumulated debris are built up at the curves and impede flow of the water trying to escape to the north, and they are expensive to untangle and remove. This may have been

excusable years ago, before garbage collection was a town service. Then large fields to the north took the overflow from the creek, but this is no longer true, and many homes are bound to suffer from such thoughtlessness.

Medical Facilities



Dr. Anthony Seidler, a native of Prussia, was born in 1825, and emigrated to America in 1851, after serving in the German Army. He completed his medical training in the east, and practiced in various places in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, arriving in Dyer in 1868. During the years he practiced here, he also served three terms as Justice of the Peace, and reared eight children.

Dr. Seidler built the large home which still stands at 136 Matteson Street for his family, and was at one time Democratic Coroner of Lake County. He spent fortyfive years in Dyer, and died in 1913.

Dr. John W. Johns was born in Lake County, Indiana in 1845, and taught school for a while to pay for medical schooling, finally receiving his diploma from Chicago Medical College in March, 1868, and locating in Dyer soon thereafter. He married Carrie Jung, but had only one child, Katie Johns, who was nine years old when he died. He built for his home the large house at the southwest corner of Route 30 and Nondorf Street, which was sold to Peter and Matilda Klein, and had remained the home of the Klein family for over sixty years. One daughter, Barbara Corcoran, is still living there.

Shortly after the turn of the century, Dr. Julius Chevigny came to Dyer with his wife and son Henry. They had migrated from Canada to Vermont in 1898, and came to the Midwest a few years later. While in Dyer four more children were born to them. Graziellia, the eldest daughter, attended St. Mary of the Woods College and married Tim Galvin, who practiced law in Hammond for many years, but she died some years ago. Julius attended Northwest Medical School and practiced medicine in Gary until his death. The youngest son John attended

Notre Dame University, and became assistant football coach, which post he relinquished when he was called into the armed service, and he lost his life on Iwo Jima. The other daughter, Marie, Mrs. Joseph Gaffney, taught school in one of the Chicago suburbs for many years and died just recently, so that the oldest son, Henry, living in California, is the only survivor of this fine family of children who began their lives in Dyer. Dr. Chevigny was appointed Health Officer for the Town of Dyer by the Town Board on January 1, 1914 at a salary of ten dollars a year.

Other doctors remembered here are Dr. Miller, Dr. Michael Rafacz, Dr. Adler, Dr. Sterling Theobald, and currently, Dr. Ramon M. Blanco, Dr. Melvin L. Hirsch, Dr. F. R. Liligan, Dr. Filemon P. Lopez, Dr. Perez, Dr. Jerome E. March and Dr. Sol R. Kaufman.

Our Lady of Mercy Hospital

In the early years of Dyer's history, the Lawler family owned a great deal of land both east and west of and abutting the Indiana-Illinois State Line. John Lawler sold acreage to the Sisters of Mercy for a new building.

The present hospital was founded in 1942 on eighty-seven acres of scenic, park-like grounds, providing facilities to accommodate seventy-five psychiatric patients. When it was founded it was known as Mount Mercy Sanitarium.

In 1952, it converted to a general care hospital of two hundred beds. With an expansion program completed in 1972, the hospital now has 258 beds available for patient care, ninety-five of which are for psychiatric patients.

In order to provide comprehensive patient care for the expansion of the bed capacity, Our Lady of Mercy Hospital has made several additions to its services since 1968.

Surgery, Radiology, Laboratory, Nuclear Medicine and Emergency Room facilities have undergone extensive expansion. The Admitting Department and Business Office also have been expanded to meet the growing demands of the hospital.

Currently the hospital has approximately 7,000 admissions annually. It employs between 650 and 700 full and part-time employees. Our Lady of Mercy Hospital has an active Medical Staff of 100 doctors, many of whom are surgeons in varying specialties.

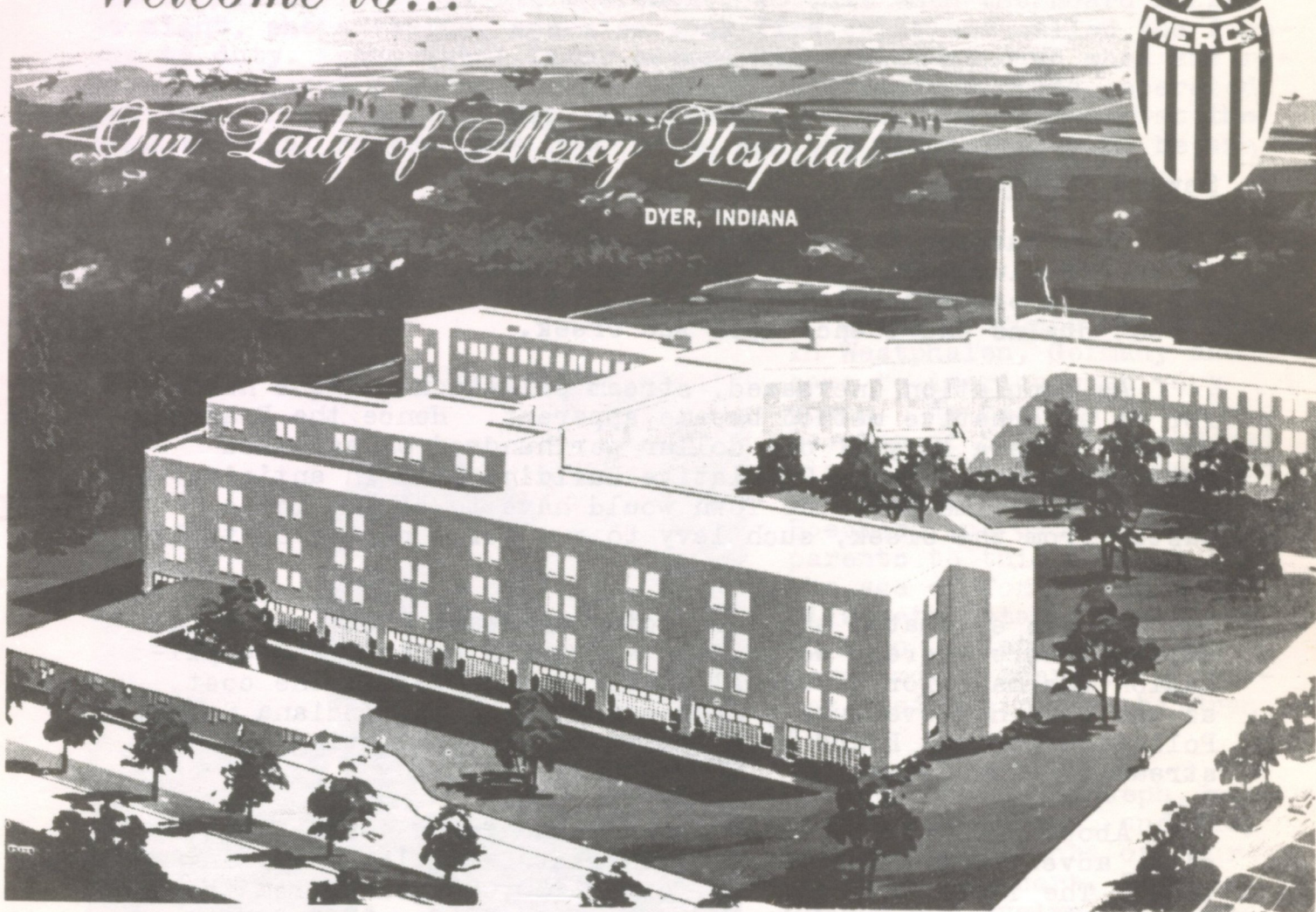
The hospital is owned and operated by the Sisters of Mercy of the Union of the United States of America, and is under the jurisdiction of the Detroit Province. Assisting in the functions of the hospital is a Lay Advisory Board, composed of prominent Calumet Region Citizens.

Welcome to...



Our Lady of Mercy Hospital

DYER, INDIANA



Our Lady of Mercy Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, and is a member of the American Hospital Association, the Catholic Hospital Association and the Indiana Hospital Association.

Townspeople consider the hospital a great asset to the Town for a number of reasons. It is an imposing structure, and affords convenient access for medical help, as well as providing employment to many in the area.

Sewage Treatment Plant

When outdoor toilets were abandoned years ago in favor on indoor plumbing, septic tanks were employed to decompose and purify organic sewage, and the overflow from them went street drains and thence into the Creek.

As population increased, stream pollution and the need for an alternative method became apparent. Hence the Board in 1957 made a levy of one dollar per hundred of assessed valuation for a Sewage Cumulative Building Fund in anticipation of the time when the Town would have to divert these wastes from the Creek, such levy to run for a period of twelve years.

It was estimated that providing a Sewage Plant and interceptor sewers thereto would cost a "pretty penny", and application was made for a Federal Grant to help defray the cost, as the Town had eventually been mandated by the Indiana Stream Pollution Control Board to cease and desist polluting the stream of Plum Creek.

About 1962 the Board purchased land for a sewage plant site, advertised for bids, and contracts were let early in 1964. The Town had qualified for a \$250,000 grant from the Federal Government, and issued a bond issue for \$720,000 to run for thirty years in order to provide funds therefor, in addition to tapping the Sewage Cumulative Building Fund.

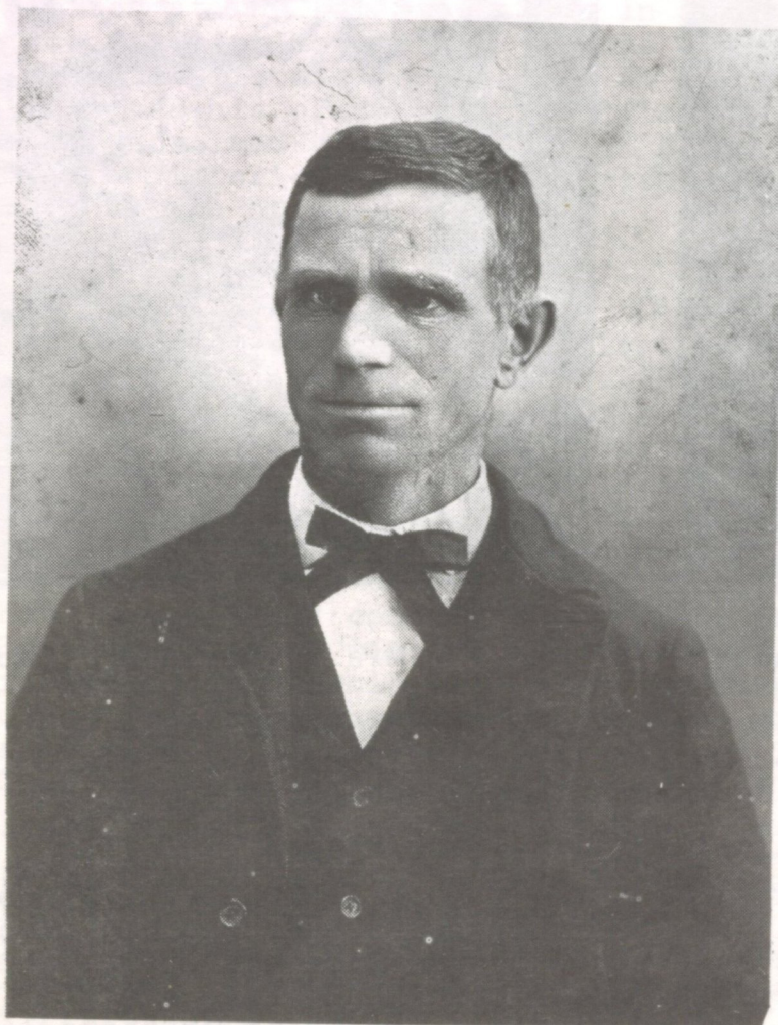
By the summer of 1966 residents having access to lines were advised to by-pass septic tanks and run such wastes into sewers. Billing for such service was begun about September of that year, at the rate set by the Public Service Commission based on the cost of providing such service, and certain of the bonds are being retired each year. Total cost of the project was \$1,150,000, and by extensions of the service from time to time, the Board hopes eventually to make it available to all.

Telephone Office in Early Days

There were not so many automatic buttons scattered about town when telephones were scarce, and Verna Brewer was the first operator, manning a small switchboard in her home at 1946 Hart Street. Later the equipment was moved above Austgen's Hardware Store, and a Mr. Good operated it for a while, followed by Mrs. Hurst Carnahan. The Carnahans lived in the apartment, so that when the Board buzzed at night, she answered, and also took fire calls and called the firemen to duty. John Thiel later became her assistant, and when she retired, Margaret Gardner and her sister, Genevieve Higgins, operated the Board for a while. Mrs. Adeline Severa was the operator at the time the dial system came into being and the old switchboard became obsolete.

FAMILY BIOGRAPHIES

The Overhages



Henry Overhage

Henry Overhage was born in Westphalen, Germany and came to America when very young. He married Elizabeth Boecker of St. John, who had also been born in Germany to Christopher and Gertrude Boecker, and came with her parents to this country at the age of four. Henry and Elizabeth established their home on Joliet Street and never moved therefrom, rearing their thirteen children there.

One of them, Joseph, married Agnes Kaiser, and they became the parents of four children, Norbert, Frances, Joseph and Evelyn. Frances married Edward Koepl, and they and their large family still occupy the old home. Evelyn married Albert Koepl and lives nearby.

Other members of the Overhage family were Arnold and Mrs. Catherine Grothaus, whose story follows.

The Grothaus Family



Mrs. Catherine Grothaus



Mrs. Theresa Grothaus

Catherine Grothaus (nee Overhage) came from Germany in 1881 and settled in Dyer with her husband Arnold. They reared eight children, most of whom are scattered throughout Lake County, but one son, Arnold, and his family spent their entire lives in Dyer. His wife was Theresa Klein of Chicago Heights, and they had four sons and four daughters. They made their home at 1951 Hart Street for most of their married lives, and though Theresa, who had been widowed many years ago, was laid to rest some time ago at 82, her sons Joe and Howard still reside in the home place, and a sister, Mrs. Marie Reeder, lives on Church Street. Catherine Grothaus lived to the advanced age of 92.

Geo. F. Davis

George F. Davis was born in England on October 20, 1839, the youngest of five children born to Henry and Elizabeth Davis. Henry Davis was a minister in early life, but later farmed, and his son George was reared as a farmer. At the age of 15, he was apprenticed to a miller for three years. He and his father worked as partners for seven years, during which time he gave much attention to breeding Berkshire swine and short horn cattle. In 1867 he migrated to America and located in Chicago for eighteen months, after which he moved to Dyer and took charge of the grist mill owned by Mr. DuBueril. He eventually became one-half owner of this mill, the other half belonging to one A. Scheidt. They ground four to five carloads of wheat per month plus private orders. On August 25, 1867 he married Louise H. Bright of Devonshire, England, daughter of James and Jane Bright, and they had ten children. Mr. Davis continued his stock raising, crossing various breeds, and produced a new one called the Victoria. The first specimen was exhibited at the Fat Stock Show in Chicago in 1878, and continued to take first prize wherever it was exhibited. Through him Dyer, although small, was represented at the Columbian Exposition, where he exhibited his prize Victoria Swine, Cotwold Sheep, Shorthorn Cattle and fancy land and water fowl. He and his two brothers are credited in old histories of the area with having enriched the business life of the Town of Dyer.

August Stommel

This co-founder of the First National Bank in 1903 was born in Illinois on March 27, 1855. He was one of seven children of August and Alvina Stommel, who were both natives of Prussia. They lived in Chicago until August was twelve years old, moving then to Homewood where they lived for five years. August received a fair education in German and English, and in 1869 began clerking in a general store, where he remained until 1872, when he came to Dyer. Here he worked as a clerk for Christopher Rich, a Frenchman who had come to this country about 1840, and had a dry goods business here for a short time, but later moved to Lowell. In 1877 August formed a partnership with a Mr. Neifing and stocked new merchandise, grossing thereafter a business of eighteen to twenty thousand a year. This store business was later run by his brother, Charles Stommel.

In 1880 August married Catherine Jung of Cook County, Illinois, born in 1856 to Bernard and Catherine Jung, both natives of Alsace-Lorraine, France. To their union were born three sons, who died in infancy, and then a daughter, Ruth, who now lives in Naperville, Illinois. She is the widow of Dr. Donald Riddle, in his lifetime a Professor at the Navy Pier Branch of Illinois University, and also the author of a number of books.

The Stommel family also reared Helmuth Schwab, pictured below prior to his death with his wife, the former Ella Seehausen, who still resides in Dyer and plays cards regularly with the Senior Citizens. The former Stommel home in its winter coat of snow is also pictured, but it was razed some years ago to make room for the parking lot of Gary National Bank when it built on space originally occupied by the First National Bank.



Also pictured with the Schwabs are Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Terry, who have lived in Dyer for years, and ran the restaurant that stood where JoAnn's Restaurant is now located. Mr. Terry was a painter by trade.



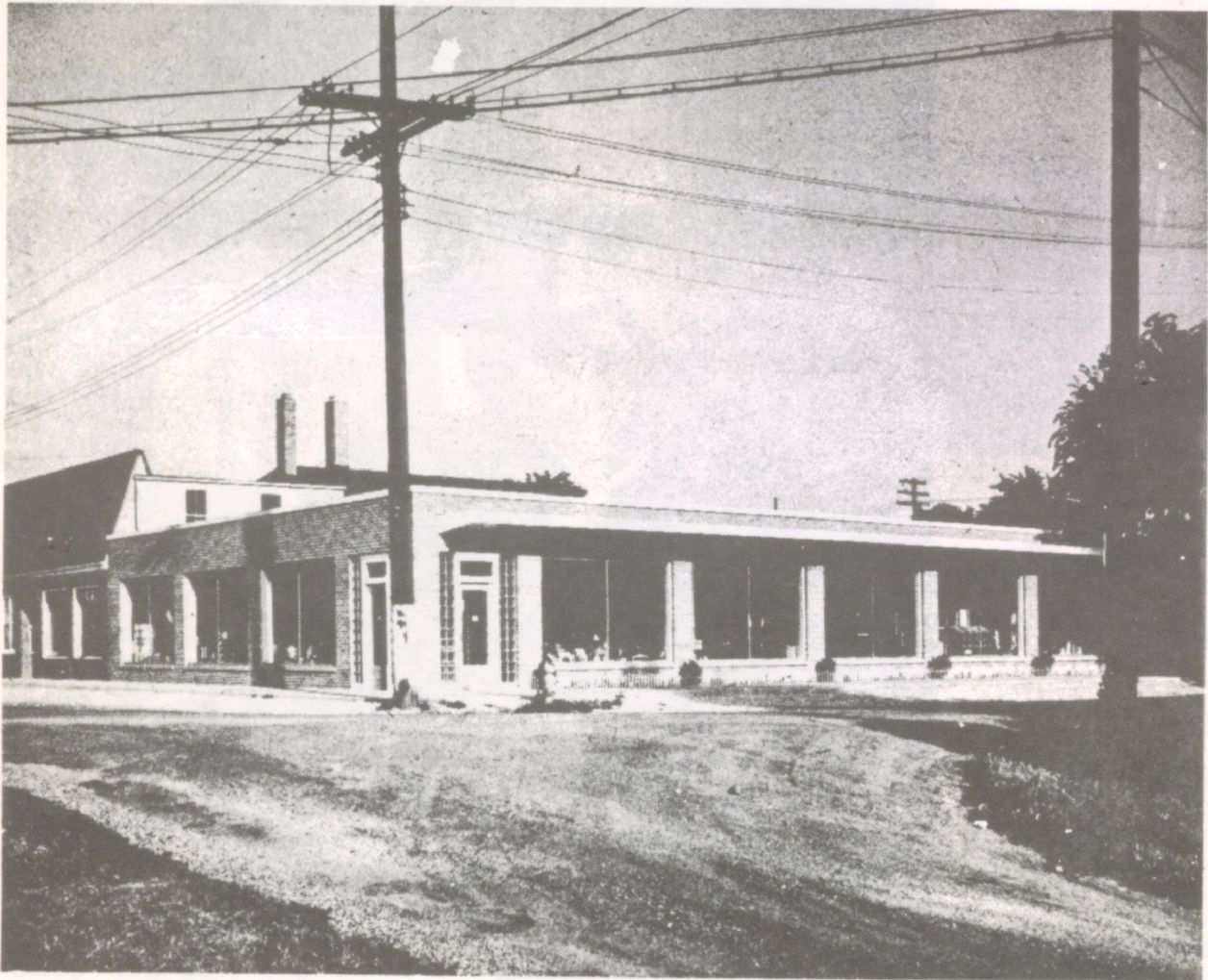
Leonard Keilman



This patriarch of the Keilman clan came to Lake County, Indiana about 1845, having lived up to that time with his parents, the Henry Keilmans, in Ohio. They had come from Hesse-Darmstadt in Germany, where Leonard had been born on May 4, 1833. Prior to their coming the father had been a teamster in the French Army of Napoleon.

Except for a short term of schooling, he worked on his folks' farm until he was 18, then for his brother for ten to fifteen dollars per month. He bought some partially improved land near Lowell, and soon added 310 acres near Dyer to his holdings.

In 1854 he married Magdalene Austgen, a native of Prussia, by whom he had eight children, Frank, Henry, John, Katie, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth and Sr. Vincentia. He was the founder, with one D. Lowenberg, of The L. Keilman Company, which business has been in existence since 1858.



THE L. KEILMAN COMPANY
208 Matteson St.

Henry L. Keilman

This son of the Leonard Keilmans was born in Dyer in 1856. He received his elementary education in the Dyer District Schools, and later attended Pionone College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was Trustee of St. John Township from 1894 to 1900, and during his administration the district schools flourished. He built the school which later became Dyer High School. In 1903 he helped or-

ganize The First National Bank, and became its first President, which position he held for thirty years. In 1910 when Dyer was incorporated, he became the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

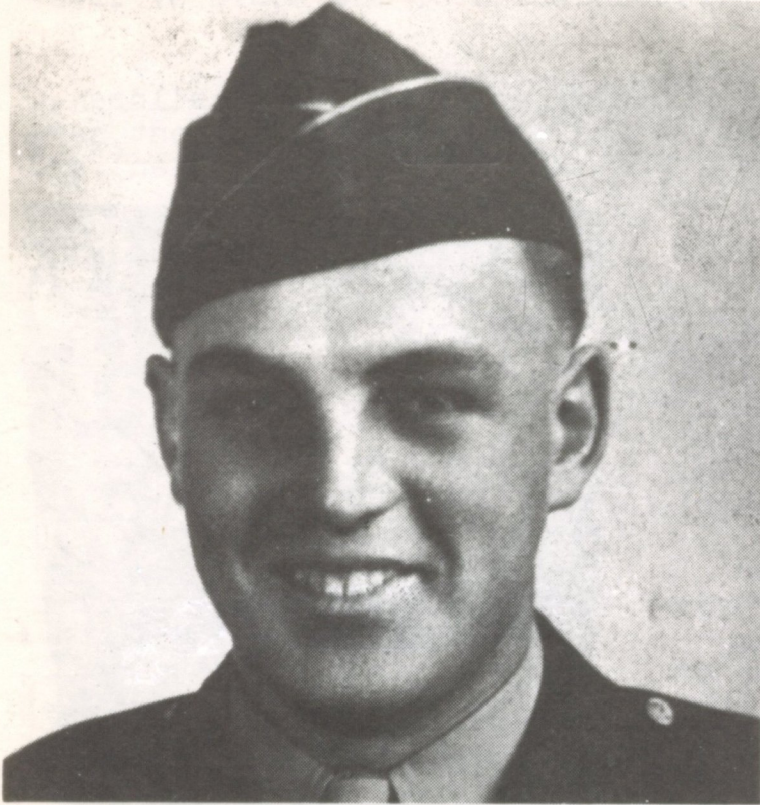
His marriage to Margaret Schaefer produced eight children, most of whom spent their lives in and around Dyer. Present survivors are Mrs. Frances Kahler, Mrs. Frank Mulhollan (Helen) and Raymond Keilman.

Frank L. Keilman

Pictured here is Frank L. Keilman (son of Leonard), with his sons, Joe, Alphonse, Leo and Andrew, and there were five girls: Lena, Elizabeth (Mrs. Wm. Herrman), Ann (Mrs. Nick Schutz), Rose (Mrs. Frank Teutemacher) and Othilia (Austgen). Their farm home stood where the Presbyterian Church is now, but was moved to the northeast corner of Hart and 77th Streets.

Below - Another view of the Frank Keilman family at home -





Alphonse Keilman (son of Frank) married Margaret Dumbsky and they had four children: Robert, Lenore, Lois and Harold. But unfortunately their father fell gravely ill long before they were grown, and died about the age of thirty-nine. Bob was the oldest of the group, and shortly after he became self-supporting and could be of some help, the Armed Services claimed him, and pathetically, while he was on a tour of duty (World War II) he lost his life. He is pictured to the left. Mrs. Keilman still lives in Dyer on South Hart Street.

John L. Keilman

This son of the Leonard Keilman family married Emma Schaefer, but they had no children. He was one of the founders of the First National Bank, and owned and operated a dry goods store on the northeast corner of Hart Street and U. S. 30 for many years. When he retired from it in 1925, he sold it to Andrew Peschel and Hel-muth Schwab.

The Keilman Sisters

Miss Catherine Keilman, known as Aunt Katie around Dyer for many years, was the daughter of Leonard Keilman, and the longest lived of his children. She was born November 1, 1859 and lived to be over a hundred years old, all of which were spent in the family home at 704 Joliet Street (recently leveled). She never married, and could recall many interesting things such as soldiers marching off to the Civil War. Although she and her sisters enjoyed the security provided by a loving and prosperous father, theirs was not an idle, frivolous life any any means. They were always religious, so attended Mass each morning at St. Joseph's Church, but a niece recalls mentions of occasions when, before going, Katie had pared apples and made five pies and had them cooling, or the others, Lizzie and Mary, had made noodles for use that day, and had them cut and spread to dry on the dining table.

Lizzie was an accomplished pianist, and her Steinway Baby Grand Piano was an imposing part of the family home - her music was sorely missed when she died some years ago.

Both Katie and Lizzie, as well as Mary, who lived with them after their father's death, spent much time making patch-work quilts, and when they were ready for the quilting part of the project, relatives would gather and lend a hand (or a needle), bringing pot-luck for lunch, and these quilts were usually donated to the Church for fund-raising purposes. All of them were very great ladies, and when Aunt Katie was 100, the First National Bank of Chicago interviewed her and taped the interview. She is shown below on that occasion:



Charles Keilman



Above is an inside view of the tavern (then a saloon) owned by Charles Keilman. His wife was Catherine Austgen and there were three children: Alois, Florence and Catherine. The young man behind the counter is Alois, known as Glace to his friends. The building still stands at 2114 Hart Street, and houses Delbert's Pizza. The family lived upstairs, but later built the home back of this building but facing Gettler Street, where Glace's widow, Agnes, still lives. Glace sang with St. Joseph's male choir for years, and was Democratic Precinct Committeeman for about thirty years. He also furnished the land for the VFW building, with the stipulation that it is theirs to use as long as a VFW building occupies it.

Joseph Keilman



Joseph Keilman was born in St. John to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Keilman (nee Loehmer), but moved to Dyer in 1904. He married Johanna Smith of Turkey Creek, and they lived on their large farm north of Dyer on 213th Street for many years, later retiring to a new home on east Illinois Street where they spent their later years. Children born to them were Edward, Clarence, Angela, Leonarda, Elmer, Maurice and Mary, who served her country in the Navy in World War II. Maurice served in the Marines, and is the holder of a Purple Heart received for injuries sustained while he was on the Battleship Princeton. He is and has been for many years the Dyer Postmaster. Leonarda, who is the widow of Anthony Vander Heyden, also resides in Dyer. Clarence likewise served overseas in that war.

Phillip Keilman

Phillip Keilman, Sr. was born in St. John on February 10, 1877, the son of Henry Keilman, a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. Phillip married Mary Scheidt of Strassburg, Illinois, and to them were born six boys and four girls, namely: Phillip, Carl, Anthony, Ed, John, Herbert, Lillie, Alma, Mamie and Stella.



Herbert served in World War I, and gave his life for his country, being the only casualty from the Town of Dyer in that war. Alma married Paul T. Gettler, and strangely their only son, Homer, was the first Dyer casualty in that war.

Phillip was married to Amelia Schmal (both deceased), but their three daughters, Leona (Mrs. Walter Hilbrich), Phyllis (Mrs. George Thomas), and Yvonne (Decker) are current residents of Dyer. Stella Keilman was at one time Postmistress in Dyer, but later married and moved away.

The Phillip Keilman home at 640 Joliet Street is now owned by Ben and Jeanette Schau, the latter being a daughter of Tony Keilman and his wife (nee Hilbrich), and Clarence Keilman of Church Street is also a child of this family. Other descendants residing in Dyer are Keith Keilman, his son Kevin, Tom Jacobs (town trustee) and Bonnie Jantzen.

Pictured to the left is
Herbert Keilman in World
War I Uniform

Other Keilmans

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Keilman (nee Scheidt) lived in and around Dyer most of their lives, and reared a large family here. Peter still lives in his home on Mary Street, and two of his children, Roy and Mrs. Rosella Bohney, still make Dyer their home.

Robert Keilman and his two sons live on Oak Street, and there are many younger members of the Keilman Clan here and there around this Town. While it is impossible to untangle all of them, two things are certain - they are all related in some way; and it is unlikely that we will run out of Keilmans for quite some time.

The Gettlers



Thomas Gettler, Sr. and his wife, Anna Devold, were born in Germany in 1837. They settled in Dyer and had eight boys and two girls, all shown in the above picture. From upper left Thomas, Peter, Matthew, Anna, Nick, Michael and William; below them Anna, the Mother, Susan, John (in front), Joseph and Thomas, Sr. (the father). They resided at 216 Matteson Street in the home now owned and occupied by Mrs. Ray Dust.

William N. Gettler

William N. Gettler, another son of Thomas, lived all of his life in Dyer, and was active in town affairs, being Town Clerk from the time of the Town's incorporation until 1939. He was also a co-founder of the First National Bank, and worked as a teller during its early years. Upon the death of August Stommel, the Bank's Cashier, he moved up to that position, which he held until his death in 1940.

Mr. Gettler married Lizzetta Wolf, and to them were born five children, Stacia, Bill, Edmund, Clement and Ray. Bill followed his father's footsteps in the Bank, and still lives in this area. Stacia and Ray live on Nondorf Street, while Ed and Clem live in Crown Point. Their old home on Hart Street near Keilman Street is now owned and occupied by the Dennis J. Rutherfords.

Peter Gettler



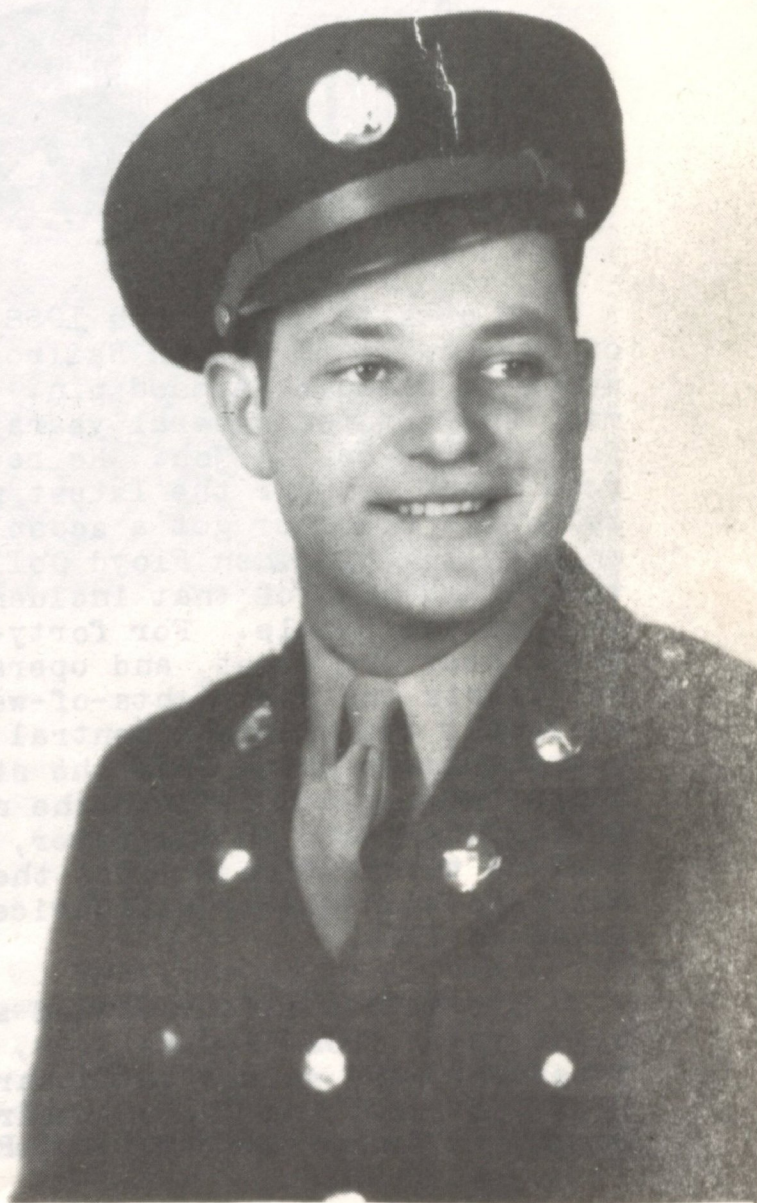
The above office picture shows Peter Gettler (another son of Thomas, Sr.), at his job of managing the grain elevator and lumber business for The L. Keilman Company. Shown with him are a customer, Otto Kalvelage, and Joe Overhage, another employee. The calendar shows 1914.

Peter married Matilda LeDoux of Chicago Heights and they made Dyer their home all of their lives. Their four children

were Paul, Johanna (Wynkoop), Adelaide (Hartman), and Beatrice, who died while in her teens. The Hartmans and the Paul Gettlers are still in residence here.

Paul Gettler

Paul Gettler is a son of the Peter Gettlers, and was born March 29, 1891. He married Alma Keilman and they still reside at 214 Keilman Street. But life was not always placid for the Gettlers. Anxiety was their lot when Eunice was serving as an army nurse overseas during World War II, as was their only son, Homer. Both are pictured below. Eunice has many gruesome recollections of those days, but did survive. Not so with Homer; he was the first Dyer casualty in that war, losing his life near Nancy, France on October 2, 1944.





A news item of March 1958 honors Paul Gettler's fifty years of service to the Monon Railroad, on which occasion he was presented a diamond studded pin. He was a telegrapher and lever man, and retired several years ago after fifty-three years and four months on the job. He recalls people flocking to the railroad tower to hear the latest news, because in those days the telegraph operator got a scoop on all the latest news. He was on duty in 1925 when Floyd Collins was lost in Sand Cave in Kentucky, and news of that incident attracted the largest crowd of inquisitive people. For forty-five years he worked in that tower near the depot, and operated the levers governing the signal lights and the rights-of-way for trains on the E. J. & E. Railroad, the Michigan Central and the Monon. He vividly recalls how the tower shook when the steam engines rumbled by, gas headlamps burning a hole into the night darkness. Paul estimates that during his years in the tower, he dragged four hundred tons of coal up those steps to fuel the heating stove. The tower became obsolete when electronic devices came into use, and so was demolished in 1953.

His active life included serving as Township Trustee for eight years from 1930 to 1939, when he was appointed Town Clerk-Treasurer, and served to January 1948. Alma taught school in Dyer for years and two of their daughters are registered nurses. Daughters Eunice Overhage and Paula Miller live nearby.

The Louis M. Hartmans



Pictured above is the interior of Hartman's Saloon, all decorated for Christmas 'way back then. This was on the corner now occupied by The L. Keilman Company in a building since moved to 409 Joliet Street. Behind the bar is Louie Hartman, the proprietor. In the overcoat with cigar is Mike Fagen, and Fred Herman is leaning on the bar. The other man is unidentified.

Mr. Hartman married Matilda Hoffman, daughter of the Nicholas Hoffmans, and they became the parents of Mabel (Newquist), Arthur, who married Adelaide Gettler, Clarence, and Melvina (Byrnes). He later became Marshal of the Town of Dyer, and continued that until his death in 1938. Mrs. Hartman lived to be 97 years of age, and died just recently. Arthur is the only one remaining in Dyer, and lives on Nondorf Street.

The Hoffman Family

Jacob Hoffman and his wife, Magdalena Oswieler, were born in Besseringer, Preussen, Germany. They were married there, and came to the United States after the birth of their first son in 1841. About 1845 they homesteaded farm land south of Dyer, subsequently known as the Mike Hoffman farm on 81st Street. Their marriage produced a total of ten sons and one daughter, of which Nicholas (married to Barbara Kloss), Peter (Mary Schmitt; after her death Anna Kostouski), Matthias (Barbara Nondorf; after her death Ottilia Waltz), Joseph (Katherine Schillo), and Jacob (Margaretha Neudorf) spent most of their lives in Dyer. Jacob was married the second time to Antonia Litle. Most of them had large families, and many of them still live in and about Dyer.



Pictured above is the interior of Hoffman's General Dry Goods Store in the early twenties when John Thiel clerked for his uncle, Leo Hoffman, both of whom are pictured. This store had been in operation twenty or more years before that, at first under the proprietorship of Leo's father, Matthias, who lived over it at the southwest corner of U. S. 30 and Hart Street. Gilbert's Hoffman's Grocery near the Town Hall is the third generation of this family's business in Dyer.



Pictured above is one of the very momentous occasions in the lives of the Leo Hoffmans, when they knelt at the Communion Rail to receive the blessing of their oldest son, Sylvester, on the occasion of his First Mass in St. Joseph's Church on May 30, 1948. They are Mrs. Hoffman (Lena Bohling), Leo, Alvina (Mrs. Carl Ralston), Kenneth and his wife Kay (nee Higgins) and Gilbert. The Ralstons live in North Carolina; Father Hoffman died some years ago, but Ken and Gil still live in Dyer.

John Beiriger



This handsome old-timer was born in Prussia November 7, 1839, the son of Matthias and Mary (Keifer) Beiriger, both natives of Prussia. They came to America in 1840 and located in St. John Township, where they laid claim to land and began farming, enduring the many hardships of early settlers, who had to haul their produce to market in Chicago without roads or bridges. Notwithstanding these obstacles, they acquired a home with 190 acres, which they did much to improve, and the father died in 1860.

After his death the family moved to Dyer, where the mother died in 1874. John Beiriger received a common school education and was reared as a farmer. He remained on their farm until he was twenty-three years of age, and then worked on another farm by the month for two years. In 1865 he began serving a two year apprenticeship to learn cabinet-making, and then became a partner with his brother, Jacob, and they established the first planing mill in Lake County.

On October 4, 1867 he married Mary Gusenberger, a native of Prussia, daughter of John and Susan Gusenberger. To them were born eight children.

In 1869 the furniture store of the Messrs. Beiriger was burned, entailing a loss of \$5,000, but they soon rebuilt. Later they dissolved their partnership and John Beiriger continued the business in connection with undertaking, grossing about \$6,000 per annum in business. He was considered reasonably successful, and died in 1908.

Casper Beiriger

Casper Beiriger was a brother of John aforementioned, and he married Elizabeth Greiving of this area. He spent his early life in Brunswick as a blacksmith, but after coming to Dyer earned their living for the most part by painting.

To the Beirigers were born twelve children, four of whom spent most of their lives in and around Dyer. William still lives on his farm south of Dyer, and is 96 years of age. Kate lives on Oak Street in Dyer, where she retired after her husband, Joseph Schaller, passed away some years ago. They had owned and operated the Dyer Hotel for many, many years, employing her sisters, Agatha and Theresa there. Theresa died a few years ago, but Agatha lives with another sister in Chicago Heights at the present time.

Frank Beiriger, youngest son of this family, is the only surviving member of the original fire department founded in 1915. He is married to the former Veronica Klein, and is still actively engaged in painting for Goldblatt Brothers, although long past retirement age.

Frank Scheidt

Frank Scheidt was born and reared across the State Line in Strassburg, Illinois and came to Dyer in 1893 when the Lincoln Highway was a dirt road. He was twenty-four years old and had learned the barber trade, so he opened a barber shop on Route 30 in Dyer. He shaved and trimmed hair by kerosene light, and heated water on a kerosene stove. A newspaper clipping of 1949 relates that he was the oldest member of the Scheidt family at its reunion that year, and had barbered longer than anyone else in South Lake County. In

addition to this, he also assisted at farm auctions as Clerk to the auctioneer.

He married the widow of George Herrman (nee Klein), who had two young sons, Matt and Pete, and thereafter fathered Frank and Stella Scheidt. At one time he was President of the First National Bank, and upon his retirement he sold his property here and, accompanied by his daughter Stella, established their home in Phoenix, Arizona. He died there some years ago, but was returned here for burial in the family plot.

Henry Nondorf

Henry and Margaret Nondorf once lived north of Dyer, and at one time owned a good deal of the land from that area south to the Lincoln Highway. The Dyer Sewage Treatment Plant at the end of Edmund Drive now occupies their home place. George Nondorf and Mrs. Ed Govert were both members of this family.

George Nondorf married Louisa Leinen and owned and occupied a large farm to the east of the home farm. They sold milk, eggs and poultry from their farm in addition to other farm produce to support their growing family of six boys and four girls: Edward, George, Jr., Gerald, Roger, Melvin and Eugene, and Lona, Elsie, Melvina and Gladys. George, Jr. and Elsie (Smith) still live in Dyer near their former home, but the farm has been sold.

Nick Austgen

Nick and Theresa Austgen (nee Schaller) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 21, 1955 at St. Joseph's Church in Dyer, where they had been married. Mrs. Schaller had come to Dyer when the Town boasted 250 inhabitants. Nick was born in St. John in 1877. He became a harness maker and came to Dyer in 1902, setting up shop south of the main corner on Hart Street. This became a hardware store, and later passed to his sons, Bob and Don Austgen. Other children of the family were Ralph, Helen. (deceased), Clarence and Alfred (both deceased), Harold and Eileen. Nick was a member of the first fire department, becoming its Second Chief, and was on the Board of Trustees for many years.



The Moeller Family

Friedrich Moeller came from Olfen, Germany to America in 1838. They homesteaded land about a mile east of Dyer, but still within the corporate boundaries south of the highway, and is now owned by the Meyer family. They had four children at the time of their coming : Anton, age 18, Gertrude 15, Henry 10, and Elizabeth, who was 6.

Henry Moeller married Katherine Govert on January 23, 1872, and to them thirteen children were born. They lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in 1922. Two of their sons, John and Joseph Moeller served as Town Marshals for the Town of Dyer.

Many children and grandchildren of this family still reside in Dyer as well as one of the living children, who has her home at 2003 Hart Street - she is Mrs. Mary Held and lives there with a son, LeRoy. At 80 she is still active and lends her support to fund-raising affairs of the Church by donations of clever needle-work items, her latest being a lovely afghan.

The William Severins



Mr. and Mrs. William Severin lived on a farm south of Dyer, and later moved into town. They had nine children, four of whom spent their lives here. One daughter, Mrs. Herman Schroeder, reared her family here; another daughter, Mrs. George Davis, was one of the group who started the Dyer Union Sunday School. Fred, a son, lived in Dyer and his son, Frank, still resides in the old home at 2130 Hart Street. Another son Herman and wife Louise had an only daughter, Evelyn (Sparks) who resides across the Illinois Line, but attends Church in Dyer, and belongs to the Senior Citizens Club.

William Teutemacher

Having come from Germany in 1889, William Teutemacher became a citizen of this country four years afterward, and resided in Dyer for fifty years. He returned to Germany to marry Anna Tullinghoff, and brought her back to Dyer. They had three sons, Frank, William and Joseph, and one daughter Elizabeth (Stark). She died in 1941 leaving three children, and it was Grandpa Teutemacher those children came home to each evening after school, as their father remarried and soon thereafter became an invalid, so the Starks made their home with their grandfather. He was Postmaster in Dyer for sixteen years, receiving the appointment during President Harding's administration:



Mr. Teutemacher and
His Three Sons



Teutemacher and Joe Hoffman -
Post Office at 207 Joliet St.

He spent his early life as a contractor, working with his brother, Herman, who lived nearby and had married Margaret Greiving. William and Herman built the present St. Joseph's Church after the original had been destroyed by fire. On his 82nd birthday, his advice to others was to go to bed early, get up early and work hard, and he did just that, always rising at 5:30 A.M. He built some of the first schools and other buildings around town. His son Frank shared the work, and continued with his sons, Jerry and Cyril when they were grown, also owning and operating the Dyer Supply Company. His widow, the former Rose Keilman, still resides in Dyer, as do the two sons and their families.

John and Lorenz Margraf

Lorenz Margraf was born in Nohn, Germany on June 13, 1848 and came to America in 1871, his parents and John having come to this country earlier. The family lived at 1915 Hart Street, and he became a citizen on October 12, 1874. He had six sisters and brothers, and they all settled in and close around Dyer. He married Susanna Gusenberger of Dyer in St. Joseph's Church, and they had five children.



The first Margraf home at 1915 Hart Street, pictured above, was destroyed by fire in 1903, but they rebuilt at the same address and lived there the rest of their lives, Mr. Margraf living to 94 years. He was a stone mason and built his own and other brick homes in the year, as well as the first sidewalks in the Town of Dyer. Mrs. Matt Margraf, a daughter-in-law of Lorenz, is now in possession of the home, and lives there with her son, Lawrence.

The John Goverts



John and Mary Govert (nee Rietman) lived on a farm south of Dyer during their productive years, but moved into town later and lived in their home at 2149 Hart Street until their deaths. They are pictured above at their farm home with their eleven children: Alphons and Bernard, Carrie (Enzweiler, Catherine (Sr. Laurent); Julia (Held), Rosie (Held), and Pauline (Sr. Philothea). Mary, who became Mrs. Margraf, is pictured the left of her parents, who both lived to an advanced age.

This was a prolific family. Of the eleven children, John died at an early age and was not married. Descendants of the other ten children at last count numbered 44 grandchildren, 129 great grandchildren and 46 great great grandchildren. Many of them live in Dyer and all over the Calumet area, and are doubtless proud of their fine family heritage.

Andrew Peschel



Andrew Peschel was a business man in Dyer for many years. He and Helmuth Schwab were partners and owned the grocery in the corner building at Hart Street and Route 30. His wife, Helen Niebling, had passed away when their three sons were quite young. One of them, Julius, died later after a tonsillectomy, but Francis and Erwin grew to manhood. Andrew's mother and father lived over Austgen's Hardware Store on Hart Street. Pictured to the left are Grandma Peschel and daughter, Rose (Ehram) with her son, Andrew and his son.

A. Erwin Peschel



If there was ever a Mr. Dyer, it would have to be A. Erwin Peschel, who was always busy serving the Community in all organizations. He was active in Boy Scouting since 1927, a Volunteer Fireman for 39 years, Treasurer of the Lions' Club for many years, a Coach in Dyer Little League, member of both Dyer and Schererville Chambers of Commerce, the Salvation Army, and an avid worker in St. Joseph's Church. He had been employed by the Gary National Bank in various capacities for many years, and the bank building was used through his supervision for many public meetings and for storage of materials for many groups.

He was married originally to Florence Jung and has three children of that union: Drew, Barbara and Constance. He died of an apparent heart attack in 1973, and his second wife, Catherine, and a son Eugene survive him. The family home at 1940 Hart Street remains occupied by Catherine and his daughter Connie.

Peter Ehram

Pete Ehram of Hammond died recently at the age of a hundred, having outlived one of his two sons. At the Open House celebration, Pete recalled his early life - he was born in a log farm house two miles southwest of Dyer, the oldest of seven children. He walked to a one-room school house, where he had to arrive early to build the fire - this was before the original Katz Korner School was in existence. He also remembered milking five cows with freezing fingers, plowing with horses and stacking hay outside, because no one had barns then. Later his folks moved to Dyer and lived at the corner of Hart and Keilman Streets. Dyer had dirt roads and no sidewalks then. Pete's parents were magnificent dancers, and when there was a dance anywhere around, they and the Ben Hilbrichs were well worth watching when the band struck up a waltz. He married Rosie Peschel, sister of Andrew, by whom he had two sons, Herbert and Andrew, and they lived on a farm at the north side of 213th Street until 1921. Then, Pete says, his wife's health was poor and his boys disliked farming, so they moved to Hammond, where he took a job as a Street Department Crewman for Northern Indiana Public Service Company. His wife died in 1932, and in 1941 Pete remarried to Edith Tubbs, and the next year retired from NIPSCO as a Pipe Mechanic. He utilized and enjoyed his retirement pension longer than any other retiree of that Company, and although his sight finally failed him - he was blind the last five years of his life - his sense of humor was as lively as ever. One story of his farming days that delighted his "city" audiences was this (Pete talking):

"At a farm sale once I bid on a gray mare - she was so skinny and sickly that my bid of \$25 stuck, and I got her. She really looked so bad I wondered if I would get her home. Well, I did and with good feeding she soon began to look better. Later she gave me three colts that grew into fine horses. But finally she developed lock-jaw. She was pretty old, so I decided I'd just have to get rid of her, although I hated to. So I knocked her in the head one night, and quickly left the barn, feeling pretty mean. That evening I planned where I would bury her next morning. But do you know what - When I got out to the barn in the morning, she was on her feet and feeding from the hay in the stall - The blow on her head had loosened her jaw! So I kept her, and when I left the farm, I got \$40 for her - she was still in good shape."

John Margraf married and lived in the home at 1932 Hart Street for many years. There were two daughters in that family - Susie, who married Alex Ehram, and Lena (Cassatt), who, after her marriage lived in Kankakee, but the house is still owned by some of the heirs of that family.

Henry Greiving

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Greiving (nee Hilbrich) spent a good many years in Dyer. Their home was on the southwest bank of the Creek at the end of Greiving Street, and is now occupied by John and Marian Bos.



Greiving Street was named after them, because they had owned and developed that acreage into home plots late in the twenties.

Children of this couple were Eleanor and William, who lived in California, Victor, who lived next door, Mary (Austgen) and her twin, Henry, who formerly operated the tavern which is now Chub's Pub.

The Greivings

Michael Fagen

Michael and Anna Fagen (Lillig) were the original owners of the Fagen Funeral Parlor, and operated a furniture store in conjunction therewith in 1896 and for some years thereafter. He was also a member of the first Town Board of Trustees in 1910. Anna was by nature a kindly, motherly soul, and did much to assist her fellow townspeople when there was sickness in the family, a new baby, etc.

Mike and Anna had three children, Anthony, Nick and Marie. Anthony married Louise Schaller and their large family grew up at 2125 Hart Street, which is now owned by Donald Fagen and wife, Bertha. Others in that family were Joseph, Ray and Daniel, and five daughters, Rose, Frances, Doris (Kloss), Delores (Govert), and Mary, who was frail and died when quite young. Delores and her husband also live here.

Marie married Roy C. Hilbrich and they built the lovely home at 2152 Nondorf Street, now owned and occupied by the William McCullough family. Their sons, James and Tom still live in that part of Dyer, as did Patricia (Rosinko) until a short time ago when she and her family moved to the Lowell area.

Nick took over the funeral business, and later erected another establishment in Highland, where he developed a perpetual memorial to his parents, consisting of a rock garden casket setting. At the time it was the only such setting in the world, and received wide recognition in professional circles.

Nick married Eva Turner, a grade school teacher in the public school here, who also became a licensed funeral director. To their union were born Maureen, Donna and Michael. Maureen married Robert Miller, who also qualified as a licensed funeral director, and joined his father-in-law in partnership, but lives in the firm's building at Highland. Upon Nick's retirement from active participation in the business, their sons are assisting their father.

In addition to Nick's enviable professional reputation, he became quite prominent for his work with youth of the district, having been the first Boy Scout Master in Lake County south of Hammond. He also served on the Town Board of Trustees for a number of years, was Deputy Coroner of Lake County for fifteen years, and served with the U. S. Marines in World War I.

John Berens

John Berens wrought for himself a prominent place in the History of Dyer. He was one of the first in the community to start outside tree decorating at holiday time, having a gigantic fir tree in front of his home at 2308 Hart Street.

Having lost his wife, Anna, while still on their farm east of Town, Mr. Berens moved to town in 1926 to his newly built home, and lived there until his death in March, 1967 at the age of 92. He had two sons and two daughters; the others moved away after marrying, but the oldest girl, Marian and her husband, Leo Keilman, remained to make a home for John as long as he lived, soon thereafter moving to a lovely new home close by.



The Berens home was built in 1926 and is still an imposing residence. The decorated tree in front at Christmas time became a tradition which John maintained for forty years. The Lions Club established a John Berens award, which it awards each year to someone for outstanding civic achievement in John's memory.



John Berens

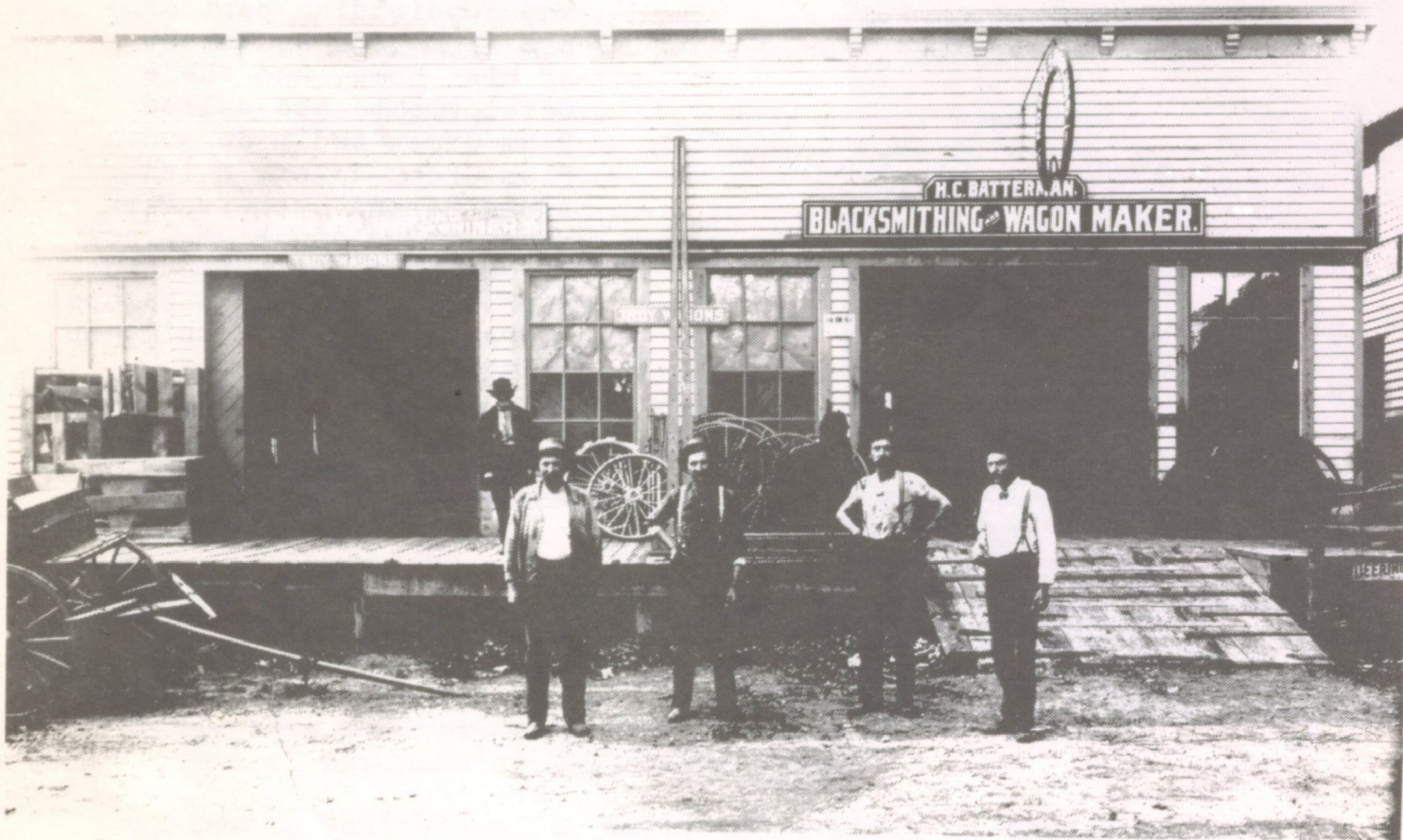
In the 1950s John was a very busy man, platting and subdividing part of his farm land southwest of his home, and these developments are called Plum Creek Addition and Plum Creek Annex, which added Berens Street, Park Manor Drive and Plum Creek Drives, and the north ends of Forest Park and Lakewood Drives to the then built-up section of Dyer.

Henry C. Batterman

In the long, long ago Henry C. Batterman ran a blacksmith and wagon shop in a building that stood where at this writing the Dyer Safety Center stands on Hart Street south of Route 30. He and his wife had two daughters, Carrie, who married August Seehausen, Hannah, who did not marry, and Joseph, who died in infancy.

The Seehausens lived on a farm south of Dyer until the time of his death, after which Carrie and her children moved back into the parental home. This stately home had been built about 1880 for the Batterman family, and continued to house Hannah until her death late in 1963, and Carrie until her death two years ago. It remains in possession of Carrie's heirs, a daughter Dorothy (Mrs. Ed Hanford) and a son, Norbert.

(See Picture Next Page)



Batterman's Blacksmith Shop

Reminiscences

In the block building still standing north and east of The L. Keilman Company, across the street from the elevator that burned recently, some one remembers a sauerkraut factory. It was started in 1917, and was owned by Louis Hartman, Matt and Joe Gettler, John Burge and a Mr. Kallenberger. There were 8 tanks or vats, each holding 125 barrels of kraut. The brand name of the kraut was Hartman, Kallenberger and Gettler, and it was sold throughout the middle west.

A news clipping of October 19, 1947 tells of a surprise party for Mrs. Susan Schutz on her 80th birthday. She was the mother of four sons, Joe of Gary, Matt of Chicago Heights, Nick of Dyer, and Tony of La Porte. She was the widow of Matt Schutz who had died at an early age, and worked very hard to rear and support her fine boys. She lived at 2027 Hart Street until her death in 1953 at the age of 86.

An old record book unearthed in the basement of Sam & Amato's establishment a few years ago revealed that each man that frequented the establishment had his own page in the book. Meals, drinks, loans and purchases were listed, paid for periodically, but not always in cash.

Daniel Scheidt ran up a bill of \$28 in one year, for which he paid by hauling ice and sand, selling hay and a \$3 road work voucher;

August Schulte paid for one of his liquor bills with five chickens and one pig. Matt Herrman paid by cleaning the ice house and carrying wood.

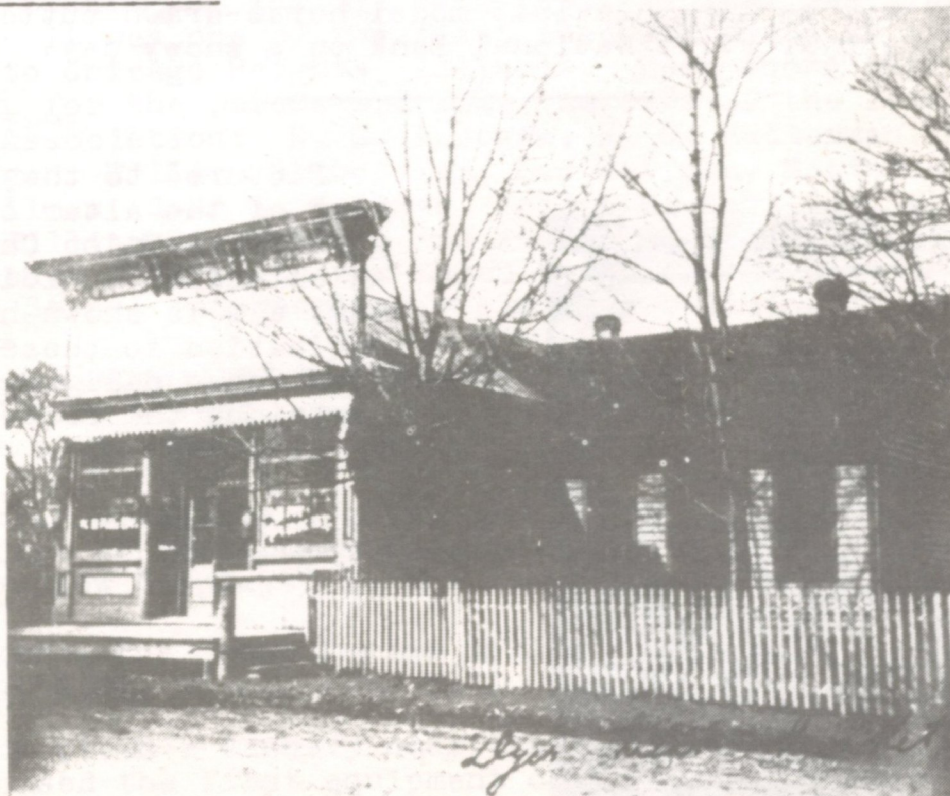
Joe Cefrot borrowed \$40 in 1903, bought a case of beer, a gallon of whiskey and an \$8.25 harness. He was credited \$11.82 for a hog; \$5.70 for 49 pounds of lard and six chickens.

Tony Roberts was credited \$1 for digging a grave in 1901.

Ernest Hummel, Sr., a lodger in the hotel, paid 45 cents a day to board his bay mare in 1911. For a 29 day visit, he paid \$4.35 for meals - fifteen cents per meal.

Around 1902 the livery stable nearby offered trips to Hammond for \$2.50. Bill Ziesenhenné, Jr. paid \$3.75 for three trips to St. John and 75 cents to go "out touring".

The Old Meat Market



1950 Hart Street

The foregoing picture shows the building at 1950 Hart Street, which now in 1975 houses Price -Rite Auto Parts, complete with the dirt road before it and the steps to the entrance level. In March, 1906 William and Eliza Bailey owned the butcher shop in this building, which was sold later to William and Henrietta Ziesenhenné. In 1919 they sold it to George and Anna Zwinger, who operated it until 1935, when they sold it to August and Theresa Friedrichsen, who had come from Germany and Austria respectively.

All of these butchers were butchers in fact, as they did their own slaughtering, smoked their own meat products, and made their own sausage. Possibly for that reason the market had such a widespread reputation for good quality meat products that customers came from far and wide to indulge themselves in their tasty goodness. After Gus passed away, Theresa's brother, Rudy Werderich, operated it until he decided to retire, and it is now rented to the auto parts business.

A news picture printed in the Hammond Times on Sunday, December 6, 1942 shows Frank Johnson, then owner of the Dyer Vault Company, parking his 1915 model horse-drawn cutter in front of the Dyer First National Bank on a snowy day.



Pictured to the left is a view of the altar of the original Dyer Union Church after an extensive building remodeling, and is shown here as a dedication to those early families whose diligence built and sustained the Protestant faith in this area.

Reminiscencies



The opening of the Old Sauk Trail in 1921 was a gala occasion in Dyer. It was one of the first concrete roads in the vicinity, and ran to Chicago Heights, Illinois. Here shown with their cars lining up for the parade are some members of the local Lincoln Highway Association: N. G. Austgen, H. C. Batterman, Mike Fagen, N. W. Fagen, William N. Gettler, Leo Hoffman, Matthias Hoffman, Alois Keilman, John L. Keilman, Joseph M. Schaller, William Teutemacher, William Ziesenhenné and August W. Stommel, and others unidentified. This photo was taken south of the Lincoln Highway and Hart Street intersection - old bank building in background;

Jake Klapper and his tinsmith shop in the old store building at 229 Joliet Street, and his partner, Henry Scheidt, who ran a hardware store there;

Copper artifacts discovered by Philip Schoup, Chicago Florist, on the farm of Philip and Mary Keilman east of the Monon Railroad, which are now displayed in the Field Museum in Chicago;

Baker's Ice Cream Parlor on Joliet Street just east of the hotel building;

John Stech's tannery near the creek on Joliet Street, which later housed the first equipment of the infant fire department. The tannery was begun in 1864.

The Ideal Section



National attention was focused on Dyer in the early 1920s when an experimental model highway was constructed, stretching three miles from Dyer to Schererville, and was dubbed The Ideal Section of the Lincoln Highway. This experiment, financed jointly by the Federal, State and County Governments and the United States Rubber Company proved successful, and led to the adoption of standards for highway construction in all parts of America. Two monuments stand at the south side of the highway, below the hill separating the two Meyer homes. The half-circle monument is In Memory of Henry C. Osterman, Vice-President and Field Secretary of the Lincoln Highway Association, Killed on the Highway in Iowa June 8, 1920. The other squared monument was erected by the Timothy Ball Chapter of the Daughters of the

American Revolution and was dedicated August 2, 1969. It is inscribed with the above mentioned facts, and adds: "This is the Finest Section of Road in the World". It also has a tablet commemorating Sauk (Sak) Trail as a Pioneer-Indiana Trail originally connecting Rock Island, Illinois and Detroit, widely traveled by pioneers and Indians of that time.

The lofty ornamental light poles that were originally put up to illuminate this Ideal Section had to be dismantled and taken down a few years ago for safety reasons.

A souvenir program dated April 1, 1932 describes a community minstrel show directed by Ben F. Lawson under the auspices of the St. John Township High School Annual Fund shows us there was high caliber talent back in those days as now. Many familiar names appear in the cast, and it was so successful that other minstrels were given. One such was given in February, 1936, sponsored by St Joseph's Male Choir with Clem W. Gettler as Chairman, and Ben Lawson as director. In this manner funds were earned for school, church and civic ventures.



The preceding picture of a band in front of the State Line Hotel shows that long before those minstrel shows, folks did get together to make noises and "toot their own horns", even before it was such a fad to "do your own thing".

Mrs. Annie Overhage (nee Rietman) was a life-long resident of Dyer, having lived at 2137 Hart Street for many years. She died November 18, 1946 at the age of 68, but her two sons still live in Dyer - John, who is married to Eunice Gettler, and Arnold, who is married to Helen Specht.



Pictured Left -
Two Young Blades
Out Riding About
the Year 1900 -
Who?

Henry Schulte and
Joe Gettler -
That's Who

Pinochle Club

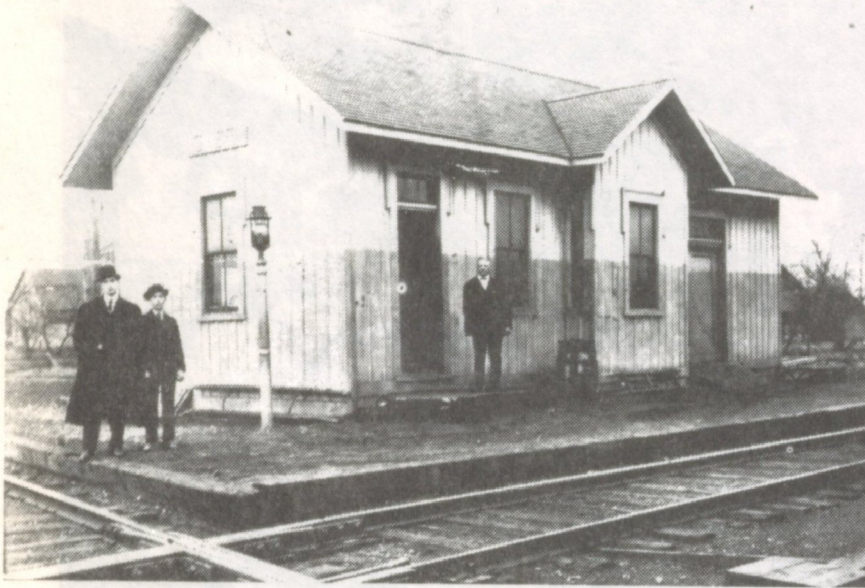
In recalling pleasant diversions from the usual work routine of every day life, it is well to mention the Dyer Pinochle Club that was organized in 1936 and is still going in 1975 - Thirty-nine years of Pinochle! Original members were Mrs. Hardman, Mrs. Mabel Sohl, Alma Gettler, Marian Keilman, Rose Teutemacher, Lena Hoffman, Mollie Miller and Cora Terry. Membership has changed through the years, but presently Clara Thompson and Margaret Keilman join Alma Gettler, Marian Keilman, Cora Terry and Rose Teutemacher every two weeks to enjoy their favorite game. How lovely to enjoy the simple pleasures!



Above is a picture of the interior of the general store run by Peschel & Schwab at the northeast corner of U. S. 30 and Hart Street. Andrew Peschel and Helmuth Schwab bought it from John Keilman when he retired in 1925. Later Schwab bought the other share and it finally became a grocery and meat market. In 1949 Helmuth sold to Leo Putz. The building has been remodeled and now houses Dr. Hembroff, Dentist and Michael Fagen Insurance, with living quarters upstairs also rented out.

Nick Schweitzer is another of Dyer's residents of distinction. He was married to Sarah Helmer and they reared a family of ten children. Upon his retirement from Combustion Engineering he spent some years as a crossing guard for the school children, and his cheerful smile is missed since he has had to curtail activities because of the loss of a leg a few years ago. On August 10, 1975 he celebrated his 83rd birthday at his home on Greiving Street where his daughter, Mrs. Ed Nondorf, lives with him. Another daughter, Dorothy (Schulte) also lives in town.

The Railroads



Shown to the left is the old Monon Depot, facing east. This was an intersecting point of that road and the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad. For many years the latter Road had a "dinky" that carried passengers in addition to its freight loads, but the Monon had excellent passenger service daily between Chicago and Indianapolis - you could go either way night or morning. Farmers called it the "milk train" because it hauled their milk to

the City. But this is all far in the past; even so there is still much freight handled from this station, which also houses all telegraphic and lever equipment for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, which absorbed the Monon into its system about four years ago. Tom Jones is their Dyer agent.

Mail was delivered to homes in Dyer for the first time in October, 1954. Up to that time one had to call at the Post Office to pick up your mail; Daisy Winters was the Acting Postmaster. And the present Post Office building was built in 1958.

And So - Everything is by Comparison,
Both the bitter and the sweet,
And it takes a bit of both of them,
To make our lives complete!

- Author Unknown

LOOKING AHEAD

With such a rich heritage, and with the efforts of so many dedicated people, the future of Dyer looks bright.

We are fortunate to have a busy, active Lions Club, Lady Lions, Jaycees and Jayettes, Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Little League, dedicated town officials, competent Police Department, excellent Fire Department, seven churches and good leadership and busy parishioners, not to mention many civic-minded working people who are also unsung heroes doing their own "thing" in whatever corner they are in.

NO ONE IS UNIMPORTANT - Wherever you are or whatever you do, you are leaving some sort of record and an impact on those with whom you live and work. Let it be a "stepping stone" and not a "stumbling block" to those who follow. These words give us Food for Thought - "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show, to any human being, Let me do it now, Let me not defer it or neglect it, For I shall not pass this way again."

And so - Let's make today a good beginning for a better tomorrow!

- SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

LOOKING AHEAD

OUTLINE

Dedication and Preface

Town of Dyer - Origin

A. N. Hart

St. Joseph's Church, Dyer Union Church,
First United Presbyterian Church, Dyer
United Methodist Church, Dyer Baptist
Church, Dyer First Baptist Mission,
Grace Lutheran Church, First Christian
Church

Dyer and St. John Township Schools

Banking Facilities

Incorporation

Town Officials

Town Meetings

Law Enforcement

Growth and Population

Municipal Water Utility

Volunteer Fire Department

Recreation Facilities

Medical Facilities

Telephone Office

Family Biographies

Reminiscences

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

Books

Woods, Sam B. - The First Hundred Years of Lake County" 1938.

Goodspeed, Weston A. and Blanchard, Charles -
"Counties of Porter and Lake - Historical and Biographical." 1882.

"Echo - Dyer Central High School Year Book" 1959.

District Schools by Roscoe Protsman

Newspaper Articles

Drury, John. "Dyer . . . Oldest of County's State Line Towns". Gary Post Tribune (July 22, 1956).

Poole, G. Kenneth. "Dyer's Oldest Citizen" - The Hammond Times (November 9, 1958).

Speech

Gettler, Paul T. - Speech made at Old Settler's Picnic in Summer of 1960.

Archives

Town Minute Books

Fiftieth Anniversary Booklet of Dyer Volunteer Fire Department

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Dyer, Indiana.
Town of Dyer bicentennial
book.

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